



Barnes Literary Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday March 15th 2006 at 9.15pm at the OSO.

Present: Fiona Smith (Chairman), Helen Willan (Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary), Claire Boyling (Honorary Secretary), David Minch (Honorary Treasurer), Lucy Hine (committee member), William Mortimer (committee member) together with 40 members of the Society.

Introduction by the Chairman.

Fiona Smith, Chairman, thanked members of the committee and BLS members for their encouragement and support in the Society's inaugural year. She thanked also the BLS patrons, with a special mention for Jan Pienkowski for all his work on the striking posters and programme design, and Anne Carroll and Rusty Livingstone of the OSO. Liz Beaumont of Beaumonts bookshop was thanked for donating the raffle prize at each event and Isla Dawes has generously agreed to continue with the vouchers after she takes over the bookshop. Especial thanks too to all our speakers.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Charles Newbury.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred us to her introduction in the Annual Report and went on to make the following comments. She re-stated the aims of the Society which are to offer a regular opportunity for people with an interest in literature to hear speakers on a wide variety of literary topics and to participate in informal discussion.

Membership at the end of last year's season stood at 300 individual members and membership numbers for the first part of our second year are higher than at the same time last year.

Speakers in last year's programme included Patrick Neate and Sarah Bailey on the birth of a novel, crime writing with David Harsent, poetry with Connie Bensley, Robyn Bolam and Felicity Napier, Sue Boyd on the Bloomsbury writers plus a guided walk in London, Drama as Literature with John Smith and friends and a Literary Garden Party with participation from both patrons and local poets rounded off our first season.

This year we have been able to act upon the ideas and comments of members and she was pleased that tonight's speaker, Susan Elderkin, had been recommended by a member and had been very successful. This year has also seen a visit to the British Library and a literary walk in Richmond in addition to the published programme of speakers.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

David Minch referred us to the income and expenditure report in the accounts. Society income (£5,553) derives from subscriptions, guest entrance fees and bank interest. Membership is divided into 60% single and 40% joint membership. Bank interest was not very significant. Expenditure was £2,860. Venue hire and event expenses account for about 60% of this expenditure. The independent examiner has charged £100. Balance carried forward is £2,693. We are now considering investment in an improved audio system and a website.

One member questioned the cost of printing. It was explained that this covered 2 programmes for our inaugural and subsequent year.

Election of officers and committee

The Chairman first explained the roles of the committee members and their particular responsibilities.

All the officers and other committee members had agreed to stand for a further year. Nominations were proposed and seconded as follows: Fiona Smith (Chairman), Helen Willan (Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary), Claire Boyling (Honorary Secretary), David Minch (Honorary Treasurer), Lucy Hine (committee member with responsibility for publicity) and William Mortimer (committee member with responsibility for technical matters). Nomination forms are available for inspection if wished.

The above officers and committee members were duly elected.

Any other business

There was no any other business and the meeting closed at 9.40pm.