

Burney Society UK Annual General Meeting
Notre Dame University, 1 Suffolk Street, London
(SW17 4HG, next to the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square)

6 October 2018, 2.00 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees: Miriam Al Hadithi, Michael Burney-Cumming, Karin Fernald, Deborah Jones, Trudie Messent, Joseph Morrissey, Gillian Skinner, Margaret Tarplee, Cassie Ulph, Jill Webster

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Christine Rees, Gordon Bates, Angela Escott, Janet and David Tregear.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** (7th October 2017)
Two points were raised in relation to the 2017 AGM Minutes
The Minutes were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chair.
Proposed: Deborah Jones Seconded: Cassie Ulph
3. **Matters arising**
 - Deborah Jones pointed out that the balance noted in the Minutes was not for the end of the accounting year. The Balance at June 12, 2017 was £3817.57 as shown on Burney Society Accounts handed out at the 2018 AGM.
 - Michael Burney-Cumming:
 - corrected the spelling of his surname and queried spelling of surname 'Tredegars'
 - noted that he liked the 'Action agreed' points listed at the end of each section of the 2017 AGM Minutes
 - suggested that in future the Draft Minutes of the last AGM could be hyperlinked to the Agenda on the Society website.

Actions agreed:

- Trudie will hyperlink 2018 AGM Minutes to 2019 AGM Agenda on website.
 - Trudie will amend Draft Minutes to remove 's' at end of 'Burney-Cumming' and correct spelling of 'Tredegar'
4. **Chair's report 2017 – 2018** (attached to Minutes)
Report written and read out by Miriam Al Jamil as Chair.
 - Michael Burney-Cumming wished to record his thanks to all organisers of the Burney Society 2018 Symposium. He recognised the importance of involving the Johnson Society.
 - Cassie Ulph noted that the Symposium had been sold out.
 - Debbie noted how useful it had been to do the booking via Eventbrite.
 - Miriam - the idea of having a central London Symposium arose from a suggestion from David Tregear to have an event in London which did not involve too much walking. Miriam mentioned that she is keen to foster links to other Societies.
 - Debbie mentioned the recent book on Handel and suggested an event with the Handel Society.

Actions agreed:

- Miriam will consider and propose to committee future potential event collaborations.
- Trudie will upload a pdf version of Chair's report to the website and attach to these Minutes.

5. **Treasurer Report and Membership.**

Treasurer Report

Deborah Jones presented the accounts, accompanied by her handout 'Burney Society Accounts 13 June 2016 – 12 June 2017', which has been appended to these Minutes. The account shows a balance at June 12, 2017 of £3817.57. The account to date for AGM on 6 October 2018 (to be revised) was noted as £4252.30.

Discussion:

- Deborah pointed out that as the amounts concerned were relatively small there was no requirement for the accounts to be audited.
- Deborah remarked on how useful it had been to have ticket sales for the Symposium via Eventbrite as it gave a clear final figure for income from sales.
- Michael Burney-Cumming asked about the sale of excess bottles after the Symposium and pointed out that these should be under Incomings rather than Outgoings.

Membership Report

Discussion:

- Membership – about half pay by standing order. Deborah would prefer if this proportion could be increased.
- Issue about when people pay was raised. Debbie said that she generally took the end of year to be a significant break between years.
- Miriam raised possibility that this could present some problems.
- Michael Burney-Cumming requested a total current membership number. Debbie said a precise number was difficult to calculate as membership fees were still coming in, but she would estimate that at present there were 56 paid up members.

Actions agreed:

- Membership fees to remain at present levels.
Proposed Deborah Jones. Agreed.

6. **Communications and website report.**

Trudie Messent circulated printed copies of the 'Communications and website report' and read out report. This report is appended to these Minutes.

Copies of the new Burney Society UK flyer designed by Trudie were distributed, including 30 copies to Karin Fernald to hand out at her upcoming talk. Ninety copies having previously been distributed at the talk given by Miriam al Jamil in Mickelham. These flyers were also made available at a recent Torch conference in Oxford and at the Oxford Alumni weekend. The final version of this flyer will include the new website domain name.

Communications – Newsletters, The Burney Letter and Burney Society leaflet.

Discussion:

- Michael Burney- Cumming commented on the advisability of updating to a website that does not have external advertisements by leaving the free Wordpress site.
- Trudie - new site also uses Wordpress as the design environment but is hosted by 1and1.co.uk, a hosting site that Trudie had used for previous websites.
- Trudie clarified costings. New domain name (burneysociety.uk) cost 99p for first year but would increase to approximately £9.99 per annum in subsequent years. The hosting cost for the first year is £4.79 per month but this will increase by approximately £6.99 per month in subsequent years.
- Michael Burney- Cumming asked if the new site had adequate safeguards for the protection of members' data, such as email addresses.
- Trudie - although this paid site had the potential to be used for emails at present it did not contain any personal details of members as currently the Burney Society used a gmail email account to contact members. At present the new site was unsecured but data security could be added at additional cost.
- Miriam - Trudie must submit invoices to Treasurer for payment as Committee members should not bear cost personally.
- Michael Burney-Cumming - suggested that the overlap of the two websites should not exceed three months rather than being for 'the foreseeable future' and that proposal for new website should be voted on as costs are involved.
- Cassie: whilst Sophie is on leave Cassie has taken over responsibility for the Burney Society Twitter account.

Actions agreed:

- Trudie will obtain costings to add security safeguards to new website.
- Trudie will make new website live before end of 2018, having transferred content from existing website as relevant.
- Trudie will submit invoices to Treasurer.
- New website and related expenditure approved. Proposed: Cassie Ulph Seconded: Michael Burney-Cumming.

7. **Election of officers.** (by show of hands)

Hon. President - Peter Sabor

Chair – Miriam Al Jamil

Treasurer/ Membership Secretary – Deborah Jones

Website – Sophie Coulombeau and Trudie Messent

Communications and Minutes Secretary – Trudie Messent

Bursary – Gillian Skinner and Francesca Saggini

Conference – Cassie Ulph

Actions agreed:

- Approval of officers. Proposed: Jill Webster Seconded: Margaret Tarplee

8. **Bursary/ Fellowship at McGill**

Burney Society UK Bursary

Discussion:

Miriam asked Gillian Skinner to report back on the first year of the Research Bursary.

- Gillian - Although there were only 6 applicants the successful Bursary applicant, Madeline Pelling, had been a very strong candidate. She will use Bursary funds to continue her research on Mary Hamilton and her life at Court. There are clearly links to Frances Burney who also spent several years at Court. Of the 6 applicants 4 were completing PhDs or were post-doctoral and 2 were independent scholars. It was consistent with the history of this Society to encourage independent scholars but this year they were unable to compete with Madeline.
- Gillian explained the process. She initially prepared a Research Bursary information statement and the content which should be on the application form and circulated these to members of the committee for agreement.
- Trudie produced a downloadable application form, attached this to the Bursary statement and loaded both onto the website. Trudie then emailed the Bursary statement and application form to the offices of the 22 departments of UK Universities that appeared relevant. There was little response so Application deadline the was extended by one month and Trudie researched relevant academic staff of these departments and emailed the Research Bursary Statement and application form directly to the most relevant academic staff in each department. This resulted in more response including expressions of interest from the academic staff.
- The Research Bursary was also advertised via other online avenues, including: Francesca Saggini's Twitter account; Chawton House Newsletter; Gillian Dow and Southampton University Eighteenth-century Studies Centre.
- Applications received were initially read by Miriam, Gillian and Francesca. The top three were then circulated to members of the Committee, who then agreed who should receive the 2018 Bursary.
- Gillian contacted applicants with the decision and offered comments and feedback to unsuccessful applicants. Two applicants took advantage of this offer. There was discussion about how applicants could be given more direction on the application requirement and Gillian said she would consider what additional guidance could be included when drafting the 2019 Bursary information. Gillian stated that she was willing to take responsibility for the Research Bursary for 2019.
- Miriam questioned whether it was necessary to obtain receipts from successful applicant before remitting Bursary monies or whether it was possible to hand out the Bursary in advance of expenditure. Debbie said there was no need to obtain receipts first. It was felt that as it was a Bursary funds could be handed out in advance.
- Michael suggested that we email academic staff we contacted with information about the 2018 Research Bursary result and with details of the 2019 Bursary.
- There was some discussion about whether we should continue with the Research Bursary in 2019 and Debbie was applied to concerning the sufficiency of funds. Discussion was pro- 2019 Bursary. It was suggested that the Bursary information and application form were circulated soon as possible.

Actions agreed:

- Debbie can remit £300 Research Bursary 2018 cheque to Madeleine Pelling
- Research Bursary of £300 to be awarded in 2019
- Gillian will redraft Research Bursary information to make clearer the amount and depth of detail on the proposed research expected from applicants.

- Trudie will load 2019 Research Bursary information onto the website, when available, redesign application form and email both to relevant academic staff, together with a statement about 2018 award.

Fellowship at McGill

Miriam outlined request from Peter Sabor, our Honorary President, for contributions to the Research Fellowship at McGill University Burney Centre. They are experiencing a reduction in funds as McGill university has withdrawn financial support. The research fellowship for 2019 will receive \$1500 from ASECS and \$1000 from the North American Burney Society but there remains a shortfall of £300, if we could contribute this amount we would be named as a contributor to a fully funded research fellowship.

Discussion:

- Cassie had previously held this Fellowship at McGill and reported on how useful it had been for her research. Cassie observed that the Fellowship was very valuable for Burney scholars. UK scholars are eligible to apply for the Fellowship to undertake research at the McGill Research Centre. It is a well-known Fellowship and being associated with it is likely to provide additional publicity for the UK Society.
- Miriam – Peter Sabor has undertaken to ensure that any contribution from the UK Society would receive recognition.
- There was some discussion about whether we should use the money earmarked for our 2019 Research Bursary to contribute to the McGill Fellowship, as this accesses a wider input. However, it was thought beneficial to retain the UK Research Bursary as this provided a valuable opportunity for UK based research and we retain more control over the awarding process.
- Debbie confirmed that even with the continuation of the £300 UK Bursary there are sufficient funds available to contribute £300 to the McGill Fellowship, at least for a few years.
- Michael suggested we consider two questions:-
 - i. Is this a good use of Society money? – concluding that he thought it was.
 - ii. What do we do about the Bursary? Should we commit to it for one year?
 Michael also queried whether or not we could structure payments for the upcoming Conference to generate the £300.
- Cassie responded that the cost centre for the conference would be held in the University but the Head of Department has undertaken that any excess will be refunded to the Burney Society. The breakeven numbers for the costings have been calculated based on a minimum of 30 registrations but if the conference fees are raised to cover Bursary/ Fellowship costs this may act as a deterrent. The last conference had just over 30 delegates.
- Michael queried whether it was possible to raise money for the Bursary/Fellowship through sponsorship.
- Debbie observed that we are not registered as a charity with the charity commission and they require two year's running costs.

Actions agreed:

- It was proposed that £300 was committed to the McGill Fellowship, initially for one year. Proposed: Cassie Ulph. Seconded: Gillian Skinner.
- Miriam will contact Peter Sabor to inform him of the UK Society support for 2019.

9. Conference.

Cassie Ulph provided information on the planning of the 2019 Conference.

- The Call for Papers will be sent out at the end of January.
- The Finance meeting is next week. Balance between Academics and Finance teams.
- Rooms have been confirmed. They have a hearing loop and can be cabaret or theatre style. They are accessible to the accommodation.
- Dinner on Tuesday will be held in the Elliot room which is very comfortable.
- The cost centre for the conference account will be held by the School of Humanities. They will provide a free online shop. This will deal with registration, accommodation and additional payments. This will also deal with the Tuesday dinner additional costing. Dining options and allergy etc information can be selected on booking.
- The spreadsheet will be live and accessible to Cassie once registration starts.
- 'Ball park figures' - cost about £550. Suggested costings £90/95 for delegates and £60 for concessions.
- Questions for discussion – Tuesday pm entertainment. Drama staff can be co-opted to do something in the on-site theatre. Or Organ Music featuring music by Charles Burney in the Chapel – Cassie could contact the Head of Music.
- Trip possibilities – Cathedral and castle – could book minibuses or 10 minute walk from campus. Castle contains a Magna Carta. Would it be possible to put an expression of interest form on the website?

10. Possible visit to St. Pauls, Deptford

- Sophie Colombeau has established a link with St Paul's, Deptford
- Miriam circulated an information sheet on St Paul's. There was some discussion on whether this would be a suitable venue for an AGM
- Cassie suggested this would be better for a Summer visit – possibly in 2020, when Sophie would be able to be involved, desirable as Sophie had made the original contact.

Action agreed:

- St Paul's, Deptford would be a suitable location for a summer visit in 2020.

11. A Book Talk

- Miriam suggested that the UK Society could promote a talk by Jocelyn Harris at Chawton House, related to her book which included references to Frances Burney and other members of the Burney family. Chawton House would require £200 contribution towards refreshments and staffing. The suggestion is that the UK Burney Society would contribute £100 and a further £100 would be sought from the local Jane Austen Society.
- Miriam suggested that it would be useful if £100 a year could be allocated to support such projects.
- Debbie suggested that another possible talk could be musically based.

Action agreed:

- £100 contribution to proposed Jocelyn Harris talk. Proposed: Gillian Seconded: Trudie

- Miriam will liaise with Chawton House, local Jane Austen Society and Jocelyn Harris to see if this talk can be organised.

12. AOB and date for AGM 2019

Date for 2019 AGM

- agreed on 5 October.

After the AGM, Joseph Morrissey gave his talk,

'The Pleasure and Pain of Musical Accomplishment in Frances Burney's *The Wanderer*'.

A pdf of this talk has been uploaded to the website.

His new book is called *Women's Domestic Activity in the Romantic-Period Novel, 1779-1820*