

Burney Society Annual General Meeting held by video conference on

SATURDAY 3rd October 2020 at 14:00 BST (GMT +1)

DRAFT MINUTES

Present (online via Zoom):

UK Voting Members: Miriam Al Jamil, Timothy Ambrose, Christine Bean, Moira Bonnington, Michael Burney-Cumming, Kate Chisholm, Lorna Clark, Helen Cooper, Sophie Coulombeau, Karin Fernald, Rebecca Gadd, Deborah Jones, Lucy-Anne Katgely, Roger Massie, Trudie Messent, Zandra O'Donnell, Ian Perkins, Peter Sabor, Francesca Saggini, Janet Tregear, David Tregear, Gillian Webster. (22)

Non-voting: Margaret Tarplee, (audio only), Kirsten Hall (Burney Society (North America)), Sian Ejiwunmi-Le Berre (Speaker)

1. **Welcome & Housekeeping** [Slide. 1 *Welcome* screenshared]

Miriam Al Jamil: Miriam welcomed our speaker, all UK members, the committee, our President, and members of the American Burney Society; so many Burney scholars and supporters. Miriam observed that the enforced change to online had meant more people could attend the AGM. Miriam said she will introduce our speaker properly after the AGM. Miriam then handed over to Trudie for Housekeeping.

Trudie: [Slide 2. *Trudie's Rule of Six* was screenshared] Trudie introduced the six Zoom functions that may be required for this AGM using Slide 2 and requested that members mute themselves unless asked to unmute.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Miriam: Apologies from Lucienne Boyce, Anna Donovan, Marie Egan, Angela Escott, Mascha Hansen, Maggie Jameson, Kerra Soker, Joseph Morrissey, Christine Rees, Carmen Fernandez Rodriguez, Paula Stepanowsky, Cassie Ulph.

[Apologies received after AGM: Gillian Skinner, Elaine Bander, Marilyn Francus, Miriam Heard & Edward Smith]

3. **Minutes of the 2019 AGM and matters arising**

Miriam: Are there any matters arising that you want to mention now? If not, I think issues that arose will be discussed under later points. I am happy if you wish to clarify anything, or if you want to raise a question before we vote on the proposal to adopt the 2019 Minutes.

Proposal: Adopt the 2019 AGM Minutes.

Proposer: Zandra O'Donnell, Seconder: Roger Massie. Carried unanimously.

4. **Revised Constitution 2019**

[Slide 3 & Slide 4 *Extracts from Burney Society UK Constitution (2019)* were screenshared]

Trudie: Explained the Burney Society (UK) Constitution (Revised 2019) needed amendment in two places due to inconsistencies within this Constitution. The first is the removal of 'the' from the phrase which relates to the Officers stating: 'they are the members of the committee until the AGM'. This is incorrect as members are members of the committee not 'the members'. The second part of the proposal relates to an inconsistency between the 'Committee' section where it states that there are four Officers, and that the 2019 Constitution has only three Officers as signatories, omitting the President. The proposal is to add the President to the signatory list.

Proposal: Amend the Final paragraph of the Constitution (Revised 2019)

- to read 'They are members of the Committee...' instead of 'They are the members of the Committee'.
- to add President to signatory list of Officers.

Proposer: Peter Sabor, Seconder: Miriam Al Jamil. Carried unanimously.

5. Report from Chair. Miriam Al Jamil:

We held our last AGM in Lincoln at our 2019 conference when we discussed and agreed on a newly streamlined Constitution which you can now, with this amendment, you will be able to read on our website. In the final round table panel, at the Conference, we addressed the question of finding a home for Burney when we actually have no one physical location for the Society but rather a list of places with Burney associations. Of course, we are not alone in this. Jane Austen and the Brontës are unusual as women writers, in that their homes have been preserved and provide a setting for their writing and a focus for literary and Society enthusiasts. However, this ostensible disadvantage for the Burney Society, I think, means that we have the opportunity to shape a more imaginative and versatile home which allows the whole Burney family in all their diversity to be included, with no single narrative to restrict our inquiries. It can embrace different strands and genres of scholarship and continually adapt to developments in the academic world and offer new perspectives for those unfamiliar with Burney works. It can welcome in all those inspired by the Burney family, without the worry of maintaining bricks and mortar or keeping an eye on visitor numbers. It could be argued that the Burneys resist an exclusive home. Individual members travelled and lived in different towns, countries and indeed continents.

The idea of home has had added poignancy over the past seven months, as a shelter for some and a prison for others. It has been where we have played out our frustrations and confronted our fears.

We have had to adapt our plans. The Burney Society has been no different.

However, our plans have only been postponed and we look forward to rearranging

our visit to St. Paul's, Deptford, in addition to organising another visit, in 2021. Over the past year, we have continued to send out newsletters. If you haven't yet had a look at our 'Burney family Isolation Quotes Quiz' which was in our Summer 2020 newsletter, do test your knowledge of Burney texts and let us know your findings! It should be easier than the 2019 Conference quiz, we promise. You should have recently received your copy of the current *Burney Journal*. Any problems with that of course, let us know. We hope to return to a real location for our AGM next year at The Foundling Museum, with the added benefit of free access to their concurrent exhibition on the day.

Zoom has allowed us all to stay in touch, in spite of its limitations. I was just wondering whether the Burneys would have embraced it as a supplement to their letters and journals, although I suspect it would have resulted in far less written evidence for us to examine now. I am not sure how efficient Charles Burney would have been as a host or a chair, but Frances would have embraced the connection while stranded in France.

Just to reiterate what we always say in our Newsletters, in fact, we are always happy to hear from any of our members and friends and particularly pleased to welcome you all to our meeting today, which is wonderful. I want to take this opportunity to thank our President and Committee for all their support over the past year. A special mention for the Secretary, for her work on the administration this summer. Emails sent at one in the morning show she 'burns the midnight oil' for the Society. My personal thanks to everybody who has supported us so ably.

6. Report from Secretary. Trudie Messent:

I would like to thank, on behalf of the Burney Society UK, the owner of the Bogle portrait miniature, who has very kindly agreed for us to use an image of her portrait miniature on our letterhead [Letterhead screenshared as Slide 5]

This year an administrative email account, ukburneysociety@gmail.com, has been set up with shared access for the three Society Officers, at present our Chair, Miriam Al Jamil, our Treasurer, Deborah Jones, and myself, as Secretary. Other Committee members will be given access to this email account on a 'need to know' basis. In addition to the email facility this account gives password protected access to Contacts, which stores Member contact details and communication history. An associated password protected App is now being used for a Member spreadsheet.

This email is also now linked to our 'Burney Society UK' PayPal Business account, set up three days ago. It is a Business account as we are negotiating reduced rates as a non-profit/charitable organisation. You can make payments to the Society by going into your PayPal account and entering ukburneysociety@gmail.com as recipient, and then select the Business account option. We have had several subscriptions paid that way already.

High quality updated copies of our two- sides trifold leaflets were printed by Oxford University Reprographics for £70 for 300. Miriam and I distributed these at

the 2020 BSECS Conference in Oxford in January 2020. These leaflets were also distributed to museums and libraries, including Chawton House, including their 'Man Up' exhibition launch. Closures due to Covid-19 have interrupted distribution.

Since the last AGM Miriam and I have co-edited and circulated four editions of the Burney Society Newsletter, with another planned for October. Many thanks to all our contributors. Newsletters are emailed to members unless they request a printed copy. Each edition is emailed to Lorna Clark, for circulation in North America

We are grateful to the Burney Society (North America) for making their publications available to our members. Lorna Clark, editor of their *Burney Letter* emails these to me for circulation to our Members. The 2019 edition of their printed *2019 Burney Journal* has recently arrived and been posted to our current and 2018 -2019 members, after checking with members the accuracy of our address records. The *Burney Journals* cost approximately £6 per copy plus postage from America. UK P & P cost was £1.84 per copy, although substantially more for EU and Australia. 70 copies were purchased, with 52 posted to date.

The transfer of content from the old website to the new website <https://burneysociety.uk/> has been completed, however as it has transpired that a couple of people, inadvertently, have given out the address of the old website, the old website has not yet been taken down as was intended, but a message re-directing readers to the new website has been placed on every page.

The new website has now been in place for over a year, so we no longer qualify for introductory rates. Renewal of the domain name (<https://burneysociety.uk/>) costs £11.99 annually and the monthly service charge is now £8.39 per month. This includes the SSL License I have obtained this year, which has been added to our website this year to make it a 'secure site' with the important padlock, which notifies people that our site is secure and raises our website rating in google searches. A privacy policy statement has also been added to the website

I am very pleased to see that North American Society Burney news is also being posted onto our Facebook Group, which I administer. Sophie and Cassie, as co-administers, run our Twitter account and I would like to formally thank them for their excellent work.

7. Society Finance.

a. Report from Treasurer. Deborah Jones:

I will start by apologising for being tardy in replying to people and acknowledging their membership. The last three months I have had a number of medical issues and procedures. I also wish to apologise for the simple accounts. [Slide 6 with images of accounts, was screenshared]

Burney Society Year accounts June 13, 2019 – 12 June 2020

Fees in	£
June 2019	100
July	80
August	115
September	45
October	100
November	85
December	40
February 2020	40
May	20
June	215
Total	£840

<u>For Bench</u>	
October	95
November	40
December	50
January 2020	20
February	30
Total	£235 (We owe £411 to AGM date, less pledges)

OUTGOINGS

August		
7	Bursary	100.00
20	Printing	91.31
November		
11	All Lit Socs	10.00
March		
16	Speaker Exps	56.70
	Total	258.01

Brought forward 13 June 2019 =	4027.13
Carry forward 23/06/20	4844.12
From which, to be deducted, debts for this year to be paid for	
Burney Journals	£865.24
Leaflets	70.00
AGM deposit (Foundling Hpl)	120.00
Website hosting	<u>101.87</u>
	1157.11
Balance	<u>3687.01</u>

Present balance 03/10/20 = £4008.95

Simply, the fees that we have had in over the year since the 12 June last year to the 12 June this year, and to show the spread of how they come in. Although our financial year begins and ends in June, people seem to be paying throughout the year so sometimes it is a bit tricky to realise if people are paying for the previous year or the forthcoming year. It would be easier if people could just try to pay around May, June, July time and then it is obvious that it is for the following financial year. We have got a fair bit in, we have 60 members, not all completely paid up to date, but some people then are very generous when they realise their errors and then they pay even more than they need. The bench we will come back to.

The outgoings are on the opposite side. As you see, we brought forward from last year just over £4000 and we carried forward a little more, but from that there were debts from last year, finishing June this year, that I have paid in this year, quite recently, so those have come out of this year's fees. As you see right at the bottom, today the balance in our account is £4008.95. Now that includes, going back over to the left hand side, a total that we have raised for the bench and we had, up until June, £235 and to date, at the moment we owe £411, but not everybody has paid yet. I am not counting pledges I believe in hard cash, so when people make good their pledges and send cheques or bank transfers, then I can put that on the account. So, any questions about the accounts. Could not be simpler really. Anything you would like to comment on or ask about. That November one is the Alliance of Literary Societies, it is an annual fee, and we belong to them.

Proposal: Adoption of the Annual Accounts for the year ending 12th June 2020

Proposer: Zandra O'Donnell, Seconder: Gillian Webster Carried unanimously.

b. Society Bank Account holders

Miriam: Cassie does not wish to continue as an account holder on the Society Bank account. We propose that Cassie is removed from the Society's bank account and I am added to the bank account as the second named account holder, to join Debbie.

Proposal: that Cassie Ulph should be removed as second Burney Society Bank Account holder and Miriam Al Jamil should be added a second holder in her stead.

Proposer: Kate Chisholm, Seconder: Zandra O'Donnell. Carried unanimously.

c. Subscription rates

[Slide 7. 7c *Subscription rates proposal* was screenshared]

Miriam: We are proposing to change the subscription rates. Student membership will be reduced from £15 to £10 a year and we will make it a £15 membership rate for anyone who has graduated, including with doctorates, within the last five years of their graduation. It is important to encourage student membership for the society moving forward.

Proposal that subscription rates should be altered as follows:

- i. Student membership reduced from £15 to £10 per annum
- ii. Introduction of reduced rate for 5 years after graduation of £15 per annum

Proposer: Sophie Coulombeau, Seconder: Francesca Saggini. Carried unanimously.

d. Use of Society funds towards Burney Bench at Chawton House

Trudie: This proposal was amended, with the agreement of the committee, as I felt the original proposal was too vague, given that I know at least one donation is coming in. I changed it to a proposal that Society funds of no more than £300 can be added to member donations rather than whatever was outstanding after donations. [Slide 8. 7d *Use of Society funds toward Burney Bench at Chawton House* was screenshared].

Slide 9. *Location of proposed Burney Bench* was screenshared and referred to by Trudie to show the style and location of the planned bench. Trudie mentioned that Paula Stepanowsky is choosing the Frances Burney inscription for the bench.

Debbie: I have a point to make. We have, at the moment, £111 to raise to make the difference between the £300 and what we already have. What wiggle room do I have? If we make it a cut-off at £300 but we only get another £50, which we will, I have not paid yet, what do I do if there is only £60 left?

Trudie: That is not a problem, we will be fine with a maximum of £300 from Society funds. For the members to vote there should be a maximum figure.

Debbie: I will just make an appeal then to all the members, both those now on Zoom and those not, that we do need a little more and if we get more than we need it will go into General Funds, but please do still consider contributing to this cause. It would be awful if we lost it by £10 or £20.

Miriam: If we get more than we need it will come off the £300 contribution from Society funds. I hope there will be a celebration where members can be involved to inaugurate the bench, when that becomes possible.

Proposal that Society funds of no more than £300 can be added to member donations, for our contribution to the purchase, inscription and installation costs of a bench dedicated to Frances Burney at Chawton House.

Proposer: Gillian Webster, Seconder: David Tregear. Carried unanimously

e. Bursary Coordinator Report

Gillian Skinner was not able to attend due to technical difficulties so Trudie read her report, whilst it was screenshared for attendees as Slide 10.

Burney Society Bursary Report:

After a year's break in 2020, we hope to run the Burney Bursary again next year. A slightly modified advertisement has been put together (see below). This allows for the money awarded to be spent on any justifiable expenses incurred in the process of completing research, not just on travel and accommodation costs. This not only makes sense given the current difficulties of undertaking research trips during the pandemic, but also changes the bursary for the better to allow for other legitimate expenses such as childcare, or photocopying/ scanning, to be included. I suggest we advertise from the autumn, with a deadline at the end of April 2021 and the award by the end of June, to give plenty of time for prospective candidates to see it and make their applications.

We are waiting for the 2018 winner, Madeleine Pelling, to write a report on her research – she has had family commitments and was unable to give a paper at the AGM. We have had little to no communication from Reetta Sippola, the 2019 winner. I contacted her to see whether she would be interested in speaking about her research in progress at the AGM but got no reply. Obviously, her research plans may well have been upset by the pandemic, but it would have been good to have had some contact and to hear how she is doing. Gillian Skinner, 3rd September 2020

Burney Society UK Research Bursary 2021 – 2022. [Summarised on Slide 11]

The Burney Society UK is very pleased to invite applications for a Research Bursary for the 2021-22 academic year. The Bursary is open to a doctoral student or an independent scholar who is a member of either Burney Society and is currently researching any aspect of the life and work of Frances Burney and/or any of her family and/or wider circle.

An award of £300 will be made towards any justifiable expenses, including anything from the cost of photocopying/scanning and childcare to travel and accommodation, involved in a Burney-related research project. The successful candidate will be expected to deliver a paper on their work at a future Burney Society UK AGM or, if that's not possible, to write a report to be included in the Society's newsletter and on the website.

To apply, please send a CV and a completed application form (which includes a statement of research of no more than 1000 words that makes clear its relation to Burney and/or members of her family and/or her wider circle) by

email to burneysocietyuk@gmail.com. Application forms can be found on the Society's website <https://burneysociety.uk/research-bursary>.

Deadline: 30th April 2021. The winner will be announced in June and the successful applicant will generally be expected to undertake the research by the end of December 2022 at the latest.

Miriam: Did anyone want to comment on the Bursary?

Debbie: Brilliant; Peter: Very Good.

Miriam: We would be grateful if anyone in University departments would spread the word on this because it would be great to have a good selection of applicants.

f. Hemlow Prize [Slide 12 *Hemlow Prize* Screenshared]

Miriam: Explained the Hemlow Prize is awarded in memory of Joyce Hemlow who you may know is a renowned Burney scholar. This is a McGill University related award, based at the Burney Centre. It is for the best essay written by a graduate student on anything to do with Frances Burney or members of the Burney family. The word limit is 6,000 words and it should demonstrate Burney scholarship. The deadline is the 31st January, and it is awarded in October. 2021 applicants have until January to submit. Successful essays will be considered for the *Burney Journal*, and has an award of \$250 and a year's membership of the North American Burney Society. We encourage scholars to consider applying as we have had holders from the UK Burney Society in the past.

Lorna: The North American Society has expanded it, to include recent graduates, within two years of graduation, and so it is not only for students but also post-docs or recent students. Everyone is encouraged to spread the word and encourage students and recent students to apply.

8. Election of Committee and Officers.

Miriam: We now go on to the Election section. Election of Committee and Officers. The committee members who are willing to stand for re-election are Peter Sabor, Miriam Al Jamil, Sophie Coulombeau, Deborah Jones, Trudie Messent, Francesca Saggini, Gillian Skinner and Cassie Ulph.

Miriam: Lucy-Anne Katgely is willing to stand for election to the Committee. Miriam invited Lucy to introduce herself.

Lucy-Anne Katgely: I am in the final year as a PhD student, working on anonymous novels modelled after *Evelina* and *Cecilia*. I am currently working at the University of Bath, as a French teaching assistant.

Miriam: Thank you very much. I would also, at this point encourage anyone else if they would like to join in any capacity, you can just by communications about Burney matters. We are happy to have other members join us.

Officers willing to stand for re-election are Peter as President, me as Chair, Debbie Jones as Treasurer and Trudie as Secretary.

Committee members standing for re-election: Peter Sabor, Miriam Al Jamil, Sophie Coulombeau, Deborah Jones, Trudie Messent, Francesca Saggini, Gillian Skinner (Bursary Coordinator), Cassie Ulph

Standing for Election to Committee: Lucy-Anne Katgely

Officers willing to stand for re-election:

President – Peter Sabor

Chair - Miriam Al Jamil

Treasurer – Deborah Jones

Secretary – Trudie Messent

Proposal: Committee and Officers to be elected en bloc.

Proposer: Zandra O'Donnell, Seconder: Gillian Webster. Carried unanimously.

9. Future events.

a. Postponed 2020 visit to St. Paul's Church, Deptford

Miriam: The visit to St Paul's Deptford, was supposed to take place this summer, but obviously could not, but we hope to re-run it next year. We have already emailed and information about this in our Newsletters. St Paul's is one of the post-fire London churches, a large baroque church in Deptford, where Charles Burney Junior was a rector. Plans include a talk by the vicar about the church and a talk by Sophie on Charles Burney Junior, which should be wonderful. We had hoped to have an organ recital as part of it, and this is still possible. This will include tea and cakes, to make up for not having any today.

Christine Bean: Miriam how would we get there?

Miriam: It is quite easy to get there on the train and it is very close to the station.

Christine: What station? What do you mean? What train?

Miriam: All the information was in the Newsletter if you want to look at that, but nearer the time, we will publish details.

Christine: Is it possible to get there by train?

Sophie: Train and bus as well.

Miriam: It is very easily reached.

b. Proposed summer 2021 visit

Miriam: We also are proposing, in the absence of having a visit this summer, an extra one next year. St Bride's and Oxford were both considered, and Debbie suggested Weymouth. [Slide 13 *Georgian Weymouth* screenshared by Trudie]

Trudie: I volunteered to organise this visit and agree with Debbie that Weymouth is an excellent destination. Debbie would you like to speak about Weymouth?

Debbie: It does take a very interesting piece of her Court diaries and she passes through Blandford Forum, talks about the church there, we could have a visit to that. She talks about Milton Abbas, the new development and the village that was moved for the Lord of

the Manor, and the church alongside and we could have a trip to that. I notice she says the roads are very bad and they have not been completed in Dorset. I thought it might make a little mini-break if anybody wanted to extend a stay on the Dorset coast and visit these places, just a bit of fun, rather than anything too heavy.

Miriam: Would anyone like to comment or other ideas? Does everyone think that is a viable trip.

Roger Massie: A very good idea.

Miriam: Peter would you come along?

Peter: I think it is a very good idea too and I definitely support it. To add another little titbit, is one of the most recent Burney letters to emerge has an interesting Weymouth connection, which could be discussed whilst we are in Weymouth. Who the recipient was, and how it came to light and so on.

Zara O'Donnell: Is this for 2021 or 2022?

Trudie: It is for 2021. I volunteered to organise a 2021 visit, in addition to the postponed St.Paul's visit, possibly in August or late July. We hope to get to St.Paul's Deptford, as early in the year as is feasible.

Helen Cooper: It is best to avoid the school holidays, when it is impossible. We have had a ghastly summer with all the visitors. I am sure you have seen Lulworth Cove on the news. The end of July and August is out. I would say June or September.

Debbie: September or October would be fine.

Trudie: Great, thank you very much.

Miriam: Any other comments? Does that look of interest? We will obviously communicate a lot more about this over the coming year.

Helen: Yes. I think it would be wonderful.

Debbie: I should also say that it should also partly correspond with when Peter may be available.

Trudie: Yes of course. Great, thank you

Miriam: Well that all looks like it is a very good proposal.

c. Proposed 2022 Burney UK Conference

Miriam: We thought of London, partly because Kate recently talked to me about the inauguration of the small stained glass window for Frances Burney, twenty years ago, in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, a very important date for our society. It would be a lovely anniversary to commemorate. I will contact Westminster Abbey to see if they will agree to a commemorative event. There is a bust of Charles Burney in the north aisle so we could look at that too. The Conference itself would be based at St. Bride's. Do you want to talk about that Trudie?

Trudie: [Slide 14 *St. Bride's Foundation* screenshared by Trudie]

Peter told us about the St Bride's Foundation as a potential second visit for 2021. When we realised London would be the Conference location in 2022 we decided to investigate it as a 2022 Conference base. It is a Victorian Library with materials on printing, including a print

room. It also has a theatre over a swimming pool, shown on the screenprint. It housed an important library. Peter has something to say about the library.

Peter: Just that it has this wonderful Minerva Press connection. This is where Simon Macdonald discovered that Elizabeth Meeke was a Burney as opposed to being Mary Meeke, which had previously thought to have been. That came out from a volume at the St Bride's Library which he thinks is unique in the world. He thinks it is the only copy that is known to exist where there is a catalogue listing, Elizabeth Meeke by her full name, i.e. Elizabeth Meeke, not just Mrs. Meeke, and that is really quite an extraordinary discovery by Simon Macdonald, bringing another Burney family member into the novel writing pack. As some of you know she wrote something like twenty-five novels altogether. She was enormously prolific. I thought we could ask either Simon Macdonald or Anthony Mandal at Cardiff, who has also written on Meeke. One or the other might be able to give a brief recitation at least, on Elizabeth Meeke in connection with the library.

Miriam: Thank you Peter. So that is an interesting idea.

Trudie: I have spoken to St. Bride's Foundation about practicalities and they are very keen to have us and when I explained our function, they agreed to give us charitable rates, which means it is about £380 a day for the use of one of the rooms. The swimming pool can be converted into a theatre. They can do croissant lunches and will do a large conference dinner for us if we want.

Christine: We are talking about 2022, are we?

Miriam: It would be 2022. It would be our official conference that year so we would obviously be putting a call for papers out before that. It would generally be related to the twenty years since we had the window. There will be plenty more about this anon. Any other comments? Would people be interested in coming along?

David Tregear: It ought not to be forgotten that the Abbey has offered the Society a place on its Evensong Calendar for whatever date they wished and this date in 2022 would seem most appropriate. It would need coordination with the Dean and Chaplain.

Miriam: Yes, that would be wonderful. I did not know about that. I have not seen that written anywhere so thank you very much David. If there is more information you could email us at the Burney gmail. That would be wonderful.

David: Yes, of course, I will do that.

Miriam: Thank you so much. Well this all sounds really exciting. We will discuss this further in the future.

e. Postponed Burney Society (North America) 2020 Conference

Miriam: On the postponed North American Burney Society conference. Would any of our North American attendees like to mention anything about it? Do you have any more idea about what is happening?

Peter: I can speak to that briefly. Elaine and I decided we would like to put it on again, at the same time as it was going to be this year. So that would be July 2021, but of course it is up

in the air given the situation in Montreal at the moment, which is pretty dire as I think I mentioned in an email. McGill is not offering classes live this term or next term, the winter term. We are Zooming away. So, whether we can really get together in Montreal in July is very much up in the air, but we will obviously keep you posted.

Lorna: Lorna explained that the situation regarding the North American Conference was still fluid. At a recent (virtual) board meeting of the North American society, it was agreed that the conference that had been planned for July 2020 would definitely move to become a virtual meeting in 2021, so that planning could start right away (and not risk having to be cancelled again). What form this would take is not entirely clear. Any plans for 2022 in North America are not decided yet.

Miriam: We would not really want two Burney conferences in the same year. We need to coordinate on this one. There have been numerous online virtual conferences this year. We will keep in contact with the North American Society. Are there any other questions?

Christine: Did you get a month for the 2022, our conference, at St Bride's?

Trudie: They did not want a deposit yet. I have checked potential dates with them, and they have no problem whatsoever with it, they are basically not booking 2022 yet. We had not booked for 2021.

Christine: I know you would not have booked it but have you any idea of when it might be? The summer or autumn?

Trudie: We had intended it to be in the summer because that is when people from abroad tend to come to London, to do their research, so that is the plan. Obviously, we will have to negotiate with the North American Society. It is difficult to make firm decisions right now.

Miriam: No-one wants to book anything too far in advance. Everywhere is being cautious, so there is plenty in the air still to decide.

10. 2021 AGM

Miriam: We have decided to bring the AGM forward a week to the 25th September because we continually clash with the Johnson Society as we are doing again today. We seem to always pick the same weekends. So Trudie has provisionally booked it for the 25th next year. Hopefully, we will be in person at the Foundling Museum.

Trudie: I have checked that the date is available and transferred the deposit from this year, 2020 is going to go onto 2021, so that is effectively done. We have asked for the lovely Ground Floor room.

11. A.O.B

Miriam: So, to the last point. Any other business? This is your chance to speak. Would anyone else like to bring any other point up, or anything else?

Zandra: Can I say something on anything else? I have to apologise that I am going to have to leave the meeting by quarter to, ten to four, as I am also booked to attend the Johnson Zoom meeting.

AGM ended at 16: 15 BST.

AGM Note: Apologies that Annual Accounts for the year ending 12th June 2020 were not available to circulate to members 14 days prior to the meeting, as required by the Constitution, due to exceptional circumstance. They were uploaded to the website when received on 2nd October 2020 and shown to AGM attendees by screenshare.

Matters arising from AGM:

- Regarding the Committee we are pleased to announce that UK member Lorna Clark has agreed to be co-opted onto the Burney Society UK Committee, with a liaison role. Lorna is also on the Executive of the Burney Society (North America).
- It is now possible that our Summer 2021 visit will be brought forward to 13th June 2021 to correspond with Frances Burney's birth date.
- We plan to hold the 2022 Conference in June, to coincide with Frances Burney's birth date and the 20th anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial window dedicated to Frances Burney in Westminster Abbey.
- Westminster Abbey contains memorials to Frances Burney, her father Charles Burney, and her brother Charles Burney Jnr.
- Miriam has received a reply from Westminster Abbey, who are investigating possible dates for 2022.
- Lorna Clark has since clarified with the North American president that it is thought best to alternate years of conferences with the UK but what exactly will be planned in North America for 2022 is not yet known.
- An updated Membership form is available at <https://burneysociety.uk/membership>

The AGM was followed by a talk given by Sian Ejiwunmi-Le Berre on her Radio 4 play 'When Fanny met Germaine', broadcast on 7th November 2019.

The text of Sian's talk is available on our website at

<https://burneysociety.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/When-Fanny-Met-Germaine-talk.pdf>

Sian's radio play is available until at least November 2020 at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0009yxi>

Sian's studio script is for 'When Fanny met Germaine' is available on our website at

<https://burneysociety.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/When-Fanny-Met-Germaine-studio-script-2nd-copy.pdf>

We would be grateful if you would respect the copyright of these resources.