

Burney Society UK Annual General Meeting

Saturday 11 June 2022

10:00 – 11:30 BST

The Foundling Museum
40 Brunswick Square
London WC1N 1AZ

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Jill Webster, Deborah Jones, Kerra Soker

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Proposal: that the Minutes of the last meeting are accepted as an accurate record

Proposed: Michael Burney-Cumming, Seconded: Gillian Skinner

Carried unanimously.

3. Chair Report

I will give a brief outline of Burney Society progress over the last nine months since our 2021 AGM which took place online via zoom. We are pleased to resume this event as an in-person meeting and to gather as a Society in London prior to the start of our conference. An AGM is a chance to take stock and present a summary of our activities and I have to say that the bare bones of an agenda list and a financial report do not do justice to the many hours which have been dedicated to Society business, particularly this year as we have prepared for the conference. And, as I am sure you are aware, our Secretary Trudie Messent has tirelessly undertaken the work of contacting, coordinating, organising, and reorganising to finalise the conference programme. I am grateful for all her dedication and in awe of her energy!

Since the last AGM, we have sent out Christmas and Spring newsletters, along with the *Burney Letter* from the North American Society. And the new edition of the Burney journal is ready for members. In the newsletters, we reviewed the excellent talk by Professor Maurizio Ascari on the Charles Burney memorial in Westminster Abbey, given to the Society online last year; the talk by Professor Nigel Wood at the Johnson Society Christmas lunch to which Burney members were invited, and the Burney panel at the BSECS conference in January which inspired some animated discussion. Our bursary award has continued, and you will shortly hear more about the work of this year's winner and plans for future awards, from Gillian Skinner.

We are delighted that Lucy-Anne Katgely has agreed to stand as treasurer for the Society, after having taken on the role of acting treasurer.

Burney scholarship continues apace, and our committee members represent some of the most innovative and exciting scholars in the field at the moment. We are

looking forward to hearing more about Sophie Coulombe's new project on Charles Burney Junior, which she introduced to members this year and about which we will hear more during our conference.

Both Burney Societies are proud to be supporters of her project. And Francesca Saggini's shared insights and research are a valued contribution to the Society as well as to the wider Burney scholarly community. We will hear about her latest publication at this AGM. We have been lucky to receive so much active encouragement from our President Peter Sabor, and preparation for the conference has highlighted how much original work on the Burney family is going on. As we celebrate twenty years as a Society, we appreciate the continued involvement of our members in the progress of promoting and understanding the fascinating Burney family, and I would like to thank you all for your support. I feel we have moved on during those twenty years and that we have a sound base as a literary society which will continue to respond enthusiastically to Burney developments in future years.

Discussion:

Trudie's contribution to the conference was applauded.

4. Secretary Report

My thanks to Miriam and all who have borne with me whilst organising this conference, and my thanks to all of you for being so patient with the schedule changes.

The Burney Journal Vol. 18 has arrived and copies for UK members are available to collect at the back, together with your conference tote and handouts. Copies of *The Burney Journal* will be posted to our members who are not here, including international members. I am grateful to everyone who renewed their membership in advance of this conference, and completed new forms, which help me maintain accurate records. Welcome to our new members, including several postgraduates. An encouraging trend, although overall membership numbers are lower than in past years, which I think is in part attributable to the pandemic.

Many aspects of my role remain unchanged, including the Burney Society UK website which I manage and try to update regularly. Our website deliberately does not hold member details and is not involved in money transactions. Member details are held securely via Google, associated with our administrative account. Financial transactions are either handled directly via the Society bank account or via our PayPal account, which is linked to the Society bank account. Whilst Lucy-Anne has been applying to NatWest bank for access to the Society bank account as Acting Treasurer, Miriam and I have continued to co-manage the bank account. I am responsible for the PayPal account, which is useful for conference payments and membership fees, particularly for international members. However, PayPal charges are high and, whenever possible, we would prefer payment by bank transfer or cheque.

I would like to thank Sophie Coulombe and Cassie Ulph who manage our Twitter account. I administer our Facebook page and was very pleased to note recent posts from members of the North American Burney Society. Links to these accounts are detailed on our website and in our newsletters, which we circulate three times per year.

A new priority is to consolidate as much as possible of the UK Burney Society's archive. The materials held by Dr Deborah Jones, our former Treasurer, were collected by me earlier this year and further materials, including several back copies of *The Burney Journal* were handed over to me by Helen Cooper at Alton on Friday. The intention is to scan past materials and put them online, assuming we gain permission from the relevant people.

Discussion:

Cassie Ulph: My update is that all back copies of *The Burney Journal* have been put online with open access via the McGill Burney Centre website.

Peter Sabor: Hilary (Havens) had to undergo the McGill University IT training course to digitize the back copies.

5. Acting Treasurer Report

(See Appendix 1 for the handout which was circulated and shown to AGM participants on a PowerPoint slide).

On 24 May 2022 the Assets of the Burney Society UK were £6703.26, of which £92.94 were fixed assets, with Current Assets totalling £6,610.32.

Income less Expenditure for 3 September 2021 to 24 May 2022 was £2,574.01, although catering invoices for the conference are still outstanding and will affect the 2022 – 2023 balance sheet.

Discussion:

Michael Burney-Cumming: What is the President's Prize?

Miriam Al Jamil: Peter has organized the prize and this counts as an asset.

Trudie Messent: All the venue costs have already been paid and only the receipts for the meals are still outstanding. It is very likely that the conference will break even, costs being reduced by self-catering refreshments and lunch today.

Proposal: that the financial report is accepted

Proposed Cassie Ulph, Seconded Lorna Clark

Carried unanimously.

6. Research Bursary Report

Gillian Skinner 7 June 2022

We're delighted to have the 2021 Bursary winner, Catherine Pocock, delivering a paper at this conference and we look forward to hearing more about her research into Burney's experiences of publishing this afternoon. We are launching the 2022-23 Bursary competition at the conference, with a proposed deadline for applications of 31 January 2023, and with the intention of informing the winner by the end of March 2023 and all applicants will be provided with feedback. The successful applicant will be expected to undertake the research by September 2023. Any thoughts about the timeline are welcome; it can still be amended.

In recent years we have not had as much interest in the Bursary as we'd have liked. As ever, I'd be grateful for all efforts to advertise the Bursary (and many thanks for past efforts!). I'll send notices to BSECS, BARS, the North-East Forum in Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Studies, and universities in the North East.

Discussion:

Cassie Ulph: Thanks to Gillian for her work on the research bursary.

Miriam Al Jamil: We did not suspend our bursary during Covid, unlike many organisations but it may have influenced applications.

Trudie Messent: The successful applicant would be expected to report on their research at the 2023 AGM, hence the September 2023 deadline for completion.

Cassie Ulph: We were cited as an example of a bursary that covered childcare.

Michael Burney-Cumming: Is it the size of the bursary that's limiting applications? Should we increase the amount?

Gillian Skinner: No, I do not think so.

Cassie Ulph: The BARS bursaries do not receive many more applicants.

Miriam Al Jamil: Are there any changes we could make?

Cassie Ulph: We could emphasise that it is for research rather than travel.

Sophie Coulombeau: We need to get Burneys onto the curriculum at master's level.

Gillian Skinner: Burneys are included in our curriculum at the University of Durham.

Sophie Coulombeau: We managed at Cardiff but not yet at York.

Svetlana: We also offer bigger bursaries but there is very little interest.

Is the bursary limited to the UK?

Miriam Al Jamil: It is limited to Archives in the UK.

Trudie Messent: The Burney Society of North America have done excellent work on our Facebook page. It is good that it is open to everyone.

Michael Burney-Cumming: Maybe South Africa, for example, where we don't have traditional links. Post-colonial issues.

Svetlana Kochkina: Did you send information to SHARP, librarians or book historians?

Trudie Messent: Miriam and I emailed all UK postgraduate literature and history departments we could access.

Miriam Al Jamil: We need more discussion. Do you think they will apply for £400 if not for £300?

7. Election of Treasurer 2022 – 2023

Lucy-Anne introduced herself. She will move from Oxford to an English literature post in Clermont-Ferrand (France) in September 2022 but now has online access to the Burney Society UK bank account.

The AGM participants were invited to propose other members but no one else stood for election.

Proposal: that Lucy-Anne Katgely should be elected Treasurer.

Proposed: Miriam Al Jamil, Seconded: Francesca Saggini

Carried unanimously.

8. Re- Election of Officers & Committee members

Peter Sabor - Hon. President

Miriam Al Jamil - Chair

Trudie Messent - Secretary

Gillian Skinner - Research Bursary

Alison Daniell - University Co-Ordinator

Lorna Clark - North America Co-Ordinator

Sophie Coulombeau & Cassie Ulph - Burney Twitter account

Lucy-Anne Katgely (Voted Acting Treasurer at Committee Meeting, 17 January 2022)

Proposal: that the officers & committee members are re-elected en bloc

Proposer: Michael Burney-Cumming, Seconded: Helen Cooper

Carried unanimously.

9. *The Burney Journal*

Miriam Al Jamil congratulated Cassie Ulph on her new post as Editor of *The Burney Journal* and invited her to tell the AGM about any developments.

Cassie Ulph: Most recent developments are that they are getting everything online & indexing journal in MLA & EBSCO, so that it is searchable. My perspective as editor is to emphasise we are small but vigorous, we have a fast turnaround, and use peer review to support publication. Few are interested in submitting but if anyone here today is interested in being considered for Issue 19 the deadline is September 2022.

Miriam Al Jamil: Could we minute our thanks to Hilary Havens, (former Burney Journal editor) as well as welcoming Cassie to the role of editor.

Elaine Bander (President of Burney Society of North America): It is now truly a transatlantic journal.

Cassie Ulph: We are very open to interdisciplinarity.

Miriam Al Jamil: Agreed that the two societies are much closer now.

Sophie Coulombeau: Can we minute our welcome to Cassie as new editor, as well as minuting thanks to Hilary as previous editor, and to Gillian who has joined the team.

10. A.O.B.

Cassie Ulph: In conversation with the person who administers the Hemlow Prize I was told they had no applicants.

Trudie Messent: It would be good to have joint lectures online on Zoom. This has been discussed with the North American group, with the suggestion that we could hold joint online lectures. Every alternate year we plan to have the UK AGM online. In relation to the conference, I did offer two people the opportunity to give their papers at an online evening session, but this offer was not taken up.

Francesca Saggini: Is hybrid a possibility for the next AGM?

Trudie Messent: The technology is not particularly difficult, but it is very hard to get the sound right for participants.

Michael Burney-Cumming: Ten years ago, I went to a blended meeting, and it worked fine.

Trudie Messent: It is very dependent upon the set up of the room. Some venues have inbuilt technology for blended sessions, but they tend to be very expensive to hire.

Francesca Saggini: I have some news. I would like to thank Trudie for advertising our latest book. I would also like to thank Cassie and Lorna who contributed and to thank the Society for their support.

In 2022/23 I am involved in a European financed project to open Frances Burney to new audiences. I am running a blog via the University of Edinburgh website, 'The Lady with the Balloon Hat'.

Events in October 2022 and February 2023 are planned with Surrey Libraries and Surrey History Centre. These are a series of lectures and a competition to take photographs of Burney linked places in Surrey.

11:10 Miriam called the 2022 AGM to a close.

Minutes taken by Alison Daniell, Saturday, 11 June 2022
Transcribed, with additions, by Trudie Messent

Appendix 1.

Burney Society UK Balance Sheet as of 24 May 2022

FIXED ASSETS	£
External Hard Drive	42.99
Coffee machine	29.00
Catering equipment	20.95
CURRENT ASSETS	
Bank balance (3.9.2021)	£6556.75
Postage stamps	13.60
Name badges	39.97
ASSETS	£6703.26

Burney Society UK Income & Expenditure Account 3 September 2021– 24 May 2022

	£
Bank balance on 3 Sep 2021	3,804.71
Bank balance on 24 May 2022	6,656.75
INCOME	£
2022 -2023 Subscriptions	542.95
2022 Conference fees	3,544.68
President's Prize	£200.00
Total income	£4,287.63

EXPENDITURE	£
PayPal charges	54.45
Website hosting charge (August)	87.50
Bench unveiling toast	41.58
Conference	
- Venue hire	1306.00
- Catering – to date	37.49
- Conference bags	186.60
Total Expenditure	£1713.62

INCOME less EXPENDITURE 3 September 2021 – 24 May 2022 = £2,574.01