



HISTORIC BUILDINGS & PLACES

Annual General Meeting 2024

The 100th Annual General Meeting was held at 1.30pm on Saturday 1st June 2024 at Hallé St Peter's, Ancoats, Manchester. The meeting was chaired by the President, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Inglewood DL, and attended by 57 people, of whom 26 were members of the Society.

The President began proceedings by welcoming members to the momentous centenary AGM and announced that confirmation had been received that King Charles III would continue his patronage of the Society.

After receipt of apologies for absence from four trustees (Phil Thomas, Jill Channer, Cara Hepburn, Peter Mitchell), the Minutes of the 2023 AGM (previously published in Volume 07 of Heritage Now magazine) were confirmed to be a fair and true record.

The Chairman, Mr Giles Quarme, then presented his Chairman's report, reflecting on 2023 and noting that it had been a year of change and development. A new Director, Liz Power, had joined the team in January 2023 and Ross Anthony, Secular Caseworker, had increased his working hours from 4 days per week to 5 days. Another key change had been the move from St Ann's Vestry Hall, home to the AMS / HB&P for 30 years, to 37 Spital Square; a move necessitated by the poor condition of the Vestry Hall and ongoing financial burden of maintaining the premises even though they were not owned by the Society.

Mr Quarme also noted a number of technological improvements in 2023, including new financial and administrative systems (Xero and Beacon CRM) and the digitalisation of the back catalogue of *Transactions* from 1953 to 2018, made freely available to all via the HB&P website. The Director had also been tasked by Historic England to develop and deliver a Carbon Literacy training programme. He finished by announcing that he would be stepping down after the AGM and a new Chair, Sara Robertson, had been recruited to succeed him.

The Director, Liz Power, then gave her report, starting by thanking members for joining the Society's centenary AGM and welcoming a group of 4 students from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Massachusetts,

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who were undertaking a 7 week internship analysing HB&P's casework data to produce a report on the Society's impact. Mrs Power then explained that the Society was going through the legal process to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which was a more modern and suitable legal charity structure. The reason for the change and a resolution to amend the constitution were shared with all members in advance in the AGM notice. The Director held a vote on the resolution, specifically on the amendments to two clauses. The vote was passed by 26 members and 8 trustees.

Mrs Power then explained that in addition to the incoming Chair, Sara Robertson, 6 new shadow trustees had been recruited, but were not standing for election at the AGM as they would join the Society officially once the CIO process was completed in the summer.

The Treasurer, Leslie Du Cane, then presented the Accounts for the year ending 2023. He noted that the Society's net assets had decreased by approximately £28,000, but that the investment portfolio was spread widely to manage risk and that the trustees expected it would perform better as the global situation improved. He also noted that income in 2023 seemed lower than 2022, but this was because the Society had received a large legacy of approximately £160,000 in 2022. He expressed gratitude to Historic England and Cadw for continuing to support HB&P through casework grants totalling approximately £46,000 and noted that a new revenue stream had opened through the development of the Carbon Literacy training.

Mr Du Cane then explained that expenditure had increased significantly and that this was in part down to increased supplier costs due to inflation, but that the Society had also incurred large one-off costs for the digitalisation of *Transactions* and the legal process to become a CIO. He said that the office move to 37 Spital Square should enable the Society to save money on premises expenditure. He then said that overall the Society was in a reasonably secure financial position. He finished by recommending that the 2023 accounts be approved by the members and proposed the re-appointment of the charity's auditors, Xeinadin Audit Ltd. Both motions were passed by unanimous vote.

The Meeting then proceeded to the elections. The President highlighted that the elected term was only for the final few months until the CIO process was complete, and then put the election of Officers (Anthony Peers (Deputy Chair), Leslie Du Cane (Treasurer), Kathy Fishwick (Secretary) and Board

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Members (Giles Adams, Phil Thomas, Bob Kindred, Jill Channer) to the meeting in two separate blocs. They were elected by unanimous vote.

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