



HISTORIC BUILDINGS & PLACES

Annual General Meeting 2025

The 101st Annual General Meeting was held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 30th September 2025 online on Zoom. The meeting was chaired by the President, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Inglewood DL, and attended by 57 people, of whom 41 were members of the Society.

The Director, Liz Power, began proceedings by welcoming members to the AGM and explaining the procedure for the online format including the polls for voting. She noted that no questions had been submitted from members in advance of the meeting.

After receipt of apologies for absence from four trustees (Tim Moore, Peter Mitchell, Jill Channer and Moe Horikawa), a poll was run and the Minutes of the 2024 AGM (previously published in Volume 10 of Heritage Now magazine) were confirmed by unanimous vote to be a fair and true record.

The Chair of Trustees, Mrs Sara Robertson, then presented her Chair's report, reflecting on the Society's centenary year in 2024, which was marked in particular by the AGM, held in Manchester, the city of the organisation's founding, in June 2024, and by a celebratory drinks reception at the House of Lords in November 2024, with both events hosted by HB&P's President. She also highlighted the change of the organisation's governance from an unincorporated charity to a CIO, which was completed in December 2024 and ensured that the charity's governance was now fit for the future.

Mrs Robertson also noted the impressive record of cases that had been commented on and the organisation's contribution to important casework impact research work carried out by Historic England, and celebrated the successful growth of the society's social media engagement and the collaborative work in the heritage sector that HB&P had taken part in, which not only was helping the sector tackle big issues such as the climate crisis, but was also bringing greater visibility to the organisation.

She concluded by thanking her fellow trustees for their support, and gave special mention to Kathy Fishwick and Leslie Du Cane who were stepping down at the 2025 AGM after long and distinguished service.

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The President concurred with the Chair of Trustees about the significance of the centenary year and the success of the AGM in Manchester. He then gave his own personal thanks to the two retiring trustees and wished good luck to the remaining trustees and staff for the year ahead.

The Director, Liz Power, then gave her report on the work carried out in 2025 to date, highlighting the casework undertaken by Ross Anthony, Matthew Saunders and Amber Patrick, as well as a further data analysis internship undertaken by a group of students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the USA. Following the move to a CIO, the HB&P team had been working through a long snagging list. The events programme was open to both members and non-members and the online talks in particular had grown in popularity; the charity had also held its first ever symposium for heritage professionals, in partnership with the Seaside Heritage Network. She also noted that the Society's work on sustainability and skills was growing its reputation for being knowledgeable, enthusiastic and good at leading group discussions on those subjects.

She gave thanks to the trustees for their hard work and support over the year and noted that new trustees were up for election later during the AGM.

Mrs Power then revealed that HB&P had entered into a three-year partnership with the University of Oxford to undertake a project called Future Lab, to research and develop HB&P's future role in heritage. The project would begin on 1st October 2025, following a preparatory project titled Stage 0.5 which had been carried out over the summer.

She finished by thanking the staff team (Stefanie Turza, Christina Avramakis and Ross Anthony) for their hard work over the past year, and then invited the Treasurer, Giles Adams, to give his report.

Mr Adams presented the accounts for the year ending 2024, noting that there were two sets of accounts, one for the old, unincorporated charity and one for the new CIO. He explained that the organisation had been in deficit by the end of the financial year, but investment gains had reduced the deficit to £28,000. The deficit was larger than the preceding year, but this was mainly due to the legal costs of establishing the new CIO, as well as expenditure to mark the charity's centenary, both of which were one-off expenses. He gave thanks to members and donors for their invaluable support, as well as to Historic England, Cadw and the Swire Charitable Trust for grants received for casework and for core costs, and then expressed

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gratitude to Gordon Roland Smith and Graham Kent for their support through legacies totalling £6,000.

He then explained that the Society had had to pay a dilapidations settlement for the former office at St Ann's Vestry Hall of approximately £90,000.

Mr Adams finished by recommending that the two sets of 2024 accounts be approved by the members and proposed the re-appointment of the charity's auditors, Xeinadin Audit Ltd. Polls were run for each of these propositions and both motions were passed by unanimous vote.

The Meeting then proceeded to the elections. The Director explained that following the move to a CIO, all Officers and Trustees were required to stand for re-election. The President put the election of Officers (Sara Robertson (Chair), Anthony Peers (Deputy Chair), Giles Adams (Treasurer)) and Board Members (Jill Channer, Kerrie Fuller, Rebecca Harfield, Cara Hepburn, Amy Hondsmerk, Moe Horikawa, Bob Kindred, Clare Knowles, Peter Mitchell, Tim Moore, Kate Solecki, Phil Thomas) to the meeting in two separate blocs. A poll was run and all nominated trustees were elected by unanimous vote.

Following a reminder about the Annual Lecture, which was to take place directly after the AGM, the President gave a final note of thanks to members for their support over the past year and to Leslie Du Cane and Kathy Fishwick for their years of dedicated service to the Board.

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