
LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

118th Annual Report of the Council of the London Topographical Society for 2017

Our 117th Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 6th July 2017 in the Octagon, Queen Mary University, Mile End Road. It was well attended and after the formalities of the meeting there were short talks by Alastair Owens, Professor of Historical Geography at the QM University, who spoke on the Octagon, the People's Palace, the College generally and the burial ground; and Bernard Nurse, author of the Society's 2017 publication, who spoke about his work.

Council meetings were held in January, April and September to discuss the Society's publications programme, membership, finances and general administration.

The Society's annual publication for 2017, a joint venture with the Bodleian Library, was *London: Prints & Drawings before 1800* (LTS No. 179) by Society member Bernard Nurse. It contains more than one hundred images of the Greater London area before 1800 from maps, drawings, manuscripts, printed books and engravings, all from the Gough Collection at the Bodleian Library, providing a fascinating insight into life in Georgian London.

During 2017 long-serving Council Member, Michael Port resigned, and Caroline Barron and Andrew Thorp were elected to the Council at the AGM. Sadly, David Webb, a long-time member of the Society and Council Member, died in 2017.

The Society's total income for 2017 was £50,986 while expenditure came to £33,851.

The Society made a single grant this year of £10,000 to the British Film Institute (BFI), the third of three annual grants, for digitisation and cataloguing a series of short historical films about London which the BFI may produce, in conjunction with the LTS, as a DVD in 2019.

During the year 49 new members joined the Society: at the end of 2016 there were 1240 paid-up members and four honorary members.

Our *Newsletter* was published in May (No. 84) and November (No. 85) with articles ranging widely over London both past and present. The two Newsletters' front cover pictures of old views of London provided attractive tasters for our major publications.

Purchasing Properties in East London in the Early Nineteenth Century: the London Dock Company in the 1800s, by Derek Morris, and *Copyhold Tenure in the Manor of Stepney*, by Mark Ballard, provided documentary evidence for the development of London's East End, while Dorian Gerhold's *Radical Politics in the 1640s, Locating the Whalebone*, threw light on a corner of the City of London. Jeremy Smith wrote about the significance of the famous Visscher Panorama and its conservation (to which the LTS contributed), by Caroline de Stefani. *Discovering the Lawrence Wright Panorama of London*, by Hubert Pragnell, prepared us for one of our 2018 publications.

David Crawford's *A Railway Through Eight Millennia of London* surveyed the contribution of archaeology, and his article on *A New Theatre in the Round, a Transformation at the Brunel Museum*, brought us up to date with a striking innovation in an example of Victorian engineering. Another transformation noted was the new Design Museum created within the twentieth-century shell of the Commonwealth Institute building in Kensington, while the regular feature *Changing London* focussed on Walbrook in the City and the Serpentine Pavilion in Kensington Gardens. Book reviews discussed a variety of subjects; burial grounds and London south of the river proving popular themes, while the 'Bookshop corner' featured bookshops in Chelsea and Bloomsbury.

Mike Wicksteed

Hon. Secretary

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Income and Expenditure Account 2017

Income	2017	2016	Expenditure	2017	2016
	£	£		£	£
Subscriptions paid by members	23229	22810	Members' Subscription publications		
Subscriptions from earlier years	60	20	Cost of Printing	14857	17605
Income Tax from Covenants/Gift Aid (refund covers 4 years to April 2017)	15863		Cost of Distribution	1730	2896
Total subscription income	39152	22830	Total cost of publications	16587	20501
Net profit from sales of Publications	3077	3634	Newsletter	4842	4774
Interest Received	698	937	AGM	1770	2367
Grant Scouloudi Foundation et al	1250	1250	Website	460	455
Bequest Denise Silvester-Carr	5000		Administration	192	163
Sundry Donations	255	95	Total Admin costs	7264	7759
Royalties received	1554	1152			
Total Income for the year	50986	29899	Grant to Br Film Inst (2015-17)	10000	10000
			Grant to LMA (2016 only)		1756
			Total expenditure for year	33851	40017
Surplus (Deficit in 2016)	17135	10118			

Balance Sheet 31 December 2017

Assets		2016	Liabilities		2016
	£	£		£	£
Money in Bank and Nat Savings	190173	167702	Overseas Members' Post	150	217
Advance payments	5144	4886	Subscriptions paid in advance	3360	4520
Value of Publication Stock			Possible Creditor	3600	
Stock at end of previous year	12720	12936	Total Liabilities	7100	4737
Additions to Stock	480	3250	Net Worth of Society	197706	180570
Less value of Publns sold	3712	3466	Change in net worth		
Value of Stock at year end	9488	12720	Previous Year's net worth	180570	190688
Total Assets	204805	185307	Surplus (Deficit in 2016)	17135	10118
			End of Year Net Worth	197705	180570

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Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2017

I have reviewed the accounts for the society, and the underlying records from which the information has been assembled. I have received all of the explanations I have required about the information included in these accounts.

In my opinion the accounts present a true and fair view of the income and expenditure of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2017 and of its assets and liabilities and balance sheet at that date.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Cleaver', written in a cursive style.

Hugh Cleaver ACA
Independent Reviewer and Honorary Auditor

20th June 2018