

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**

**Held on Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7.00 p.m. Due to government advice on Covid-19 the AGM was a virtual meeting conducted via ZOOM.**

The AGM was preceded by a brand new virtual tour, Alexander Baron's Hackney, by Rachel Kolsky, a prize-winning Blue Badge Guide. Alexander Baron grew up on the border of Dalston and Stoke Newington, his grandparents lived off Brick Lane and his last home was in Temple Fortune, north-west London. Rachel's tour explored Hackney "discovering the sites Baron would have known - home, school, public baths, cinemas and workshops - and how they inspired his London novels."

Present: Trustees - Nick Perry, Lisa Shell, Wendy Forrest, Laurie Elks, Julia Lafferty, Ray Blackburn, Monica Blake, Tony Gillett; Independent Financial Examiner - Dave Harris; and 24 members: Anne Blackburn, Barbara Deason, Christina Sosanya, Colin Brooking, Esther Rank, Fiona Darbyshire, Hanna Nicholas, James Diamond, James Wright, John Finn, June Lausch, Kate Phillips, Mary Sewell + Chris Sansom, Olivia Kilmartin + Marc Jordan, Bernard Bourdillon, Paul Bolding + Kirsty Norman, Peter Mudge, Rachel Kolsky, Rosie Barker, Sian Batchelder and Susan Doe.

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Discussions and Decisions</b>
1. Apologies for Absence/ Announcement.	Apologies were received from: Anne Cooper, Oliver Schick (members) and Pat Turnbull (Non-member).
2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM	The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 18 September 2019 were approved, proposed by Fiona Darbyshire and seconded by Paul Bolding.
3. Annual Report of the Executive Committee	<p>Nick Perry, Chair of the Trustees, presented the report for the year ended 31 March 2020. He reported on the Society's "existential" project to engage members and the wider public to discuss the future shape of the Society. The project was due to begin a programme of meetings in March, but this has now been put on hold. Once reinstated it will seek to capture what the Society means to people and talk about what the Society could and should be. The trustees would be grateful for any suggestions or offers of practical help. He thanked Louise Goodison and Anne Blackburn for their involvement with the project.</p> <p>He explained that Coronavirus restrictions have prevented any events to date in the current year, but as we have not become dependent upon the income it produces, the effect is unlikely to be major. The medium-term effect on our events programme will be kept under review.</p> <p>As always the Trustees would welcome volunteers to give assistance, in particular assistance with fund raising.</p> <p>Our publications continue to sell well, but we have decided to cease selling via Amazon as they make the process so difficult. The work that began in 2014 on a new version of <i>Hackney Houses</i>, a guide to improvement, conservation and maintenance of late Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian houses still remains on hold, but there is a version on the website. Sales of the Society's most recent title, <i>Hackney: portrait of a community 1967 – 2017</i> are going well. The last 2 editions of our newsletter <i>Spaces</i> have not been printed, but sent out electronically, but we hope to be able to print and distribute the next issue due next month. A vote of thanks was recorded for Monica Blake who has edited the magazine since 2012.</p> <p>Our website needs updating, we have received a generous donation towards the cost from a member, but we need a volunteer to manage the process. If anybody knows</p>

	<p>someone?</p> <p>Twitter continues to be used to publicise items of interest to the Trustees and Nick also tweets (in a personal capacity) on the Council's Planning committee meetings which he attends. The Hackney Society Planning Group, consisting of architects and other planning specialists continues to thrive. The minutes are not published, but can be provided to anyone who is interested.</p> <p>The report was approved, proposed by Fiona Darbyshire and seconded by Paul Bolding.</p>
4. Report of the Independent Financial Examiner for the year 2017/18	<p>Tony Gillett spoke to the accounts, and explained that the reserves stood at £21,357, up by £2,000 on the previous year. Booksales had declined as we have no new publication, but income from events has more than made up for it. That has temporarily ceased, due to current restrictions, but again that loss is compensated for by not having the expense of printing and posting <i>Spaces</i>. He thanked Dave Harris, the Independent Financial Examiner, for his continued assistance at no charge to the Society. Dave in turn thanked Tony and said that the exercise had gone smoothly. Member Christina Sosanya made a request for a younger person to get involved with producing the accounts as Tony has been doing it for a long time, and won't be doing it for ever.</p> <p>The accounts were approved, proposed by Fiona Darbyshire and seconded by Paul Bolding.</p>
5. Election of Independent Financial Examiner.	<p>Tony Gillett proposed that David be re-appointed as Independent Financial Examiner to the Society for the following year.</p> <p>The proposal, seconded by Paul Bold, was agreed.</p>
6. Election of Trustees	<p>Nick Perry gave thanks to Lisa Shell, who has been a Trustee since 2014, but has decided to stand down. However she will continue to be involved with the Society, in particular she will continue as chair of the Hackney Society Planning Group. The 7 other were standing for election. No other members had come forward.</p> <p>They were all elected unanimously.</p>
7. Questions from members.	<p>Christina Sosanya asked 3 questions: i) if we receive any funding from Hackney Council. Nick Perry said that we did not, apart from a very small contribution to the website cost for <i>Love Local Landmarks</i>; ii) recruitment of volunteers. Nick replied that it remained a struggle, we could do with a volunteer to help us recruit volunteers!; iii) do we work with Community Development, Nick said not.</p>
8. Future Plans	<p>Nick Perry spoke about 3 planned publications: <i>Hackney Houses</i>, covered earlier; <i>Famous Women of Hackney</i>, the publications group is actively updating this and looking at the best way to publish it; <i>Twenty First Century Buildings in Hackney</i>, a follow up to our successful Twentieth Century Buildings in Hackney.</p> <p>Hackney Council is looking at how slave traders are memorialised in Hackney, e.g. John Cass who has given his name to streets and buildings in the borough. Nick feels that the Museum of the Home (aka Geffrye Museum) was wrong to consult on the removal of Robert Geffrye's statue and then ignore the clear consensus to remove it. He would welcome response outside the meeting.</p> <p>Finally, Ray Blackburn said that this event had been a trial run for future online events. Any feedback would be welcome.</p>