

The International John Bunyan Society

Tenth Triennial Business Meeting, 8 July 2022, Northumbria University

MINUTES

Chair: Rachel Adcock

Present: Vera Camden, John Coffey, Nathalie Collé, Richard Bergen, Andy Draycott, David Gay, Neil Keeble, Shannon Murray, Bob Owens, Harriet Palin, Allan Wilcox, Helen Wilcox, Janet Wootton, Arlette Zinck

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for Executive Committee absence noted from Robert Daniel and Margaret Breen.

2. Approval of minutes of the last business meeting (16 August 2019, University of Alberta).

Meeting minutes approved.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes (not already included on this agenda).

No matters arising.

4. Thanks to retiring Members of the Executive Committee.

Thanks were noted for David Walker who is stepping down from President of IJBS, following previous roles as European Treasurer and Vice President of the Society. David steered the Society during a particularly challenging time, hosting two conferences (one virtual and one in-person) at Northumbria University. He was applauded in his absence.

5. Updates on IJBS activities (report circulated in advance).

Members expressed appreciation for all the various activities and initiatives run by IJBS, particularly the new biennial virtual seminar and the potential for it to be used flexibly for work-in-progress, to promote international collaboration, and support postgraduates. Late afternoon (UK time) was deemed to be a good time to organise these sessions, and shorter sessions were suggested as likely to be more popular.

Several suggestions were made around making the Society's activities more visible, which included sponsoring conference panels at relevant conferences, and advertising in conference packs (e.g. Bangor Restoration conference) and Society/subject journals/newsletters (e.g. Ecclesiastical History, Milton Society). Other suggestions were made about extending invitations to those who may be interested in Bunyan but from a less scholarly angle (e.g. the National Minsters' Wives Conference). The Jane Austen Society of North America was suggested as a model: <https://jasna.org/>

Both these strands (events and promotion) have already been identified as areas for development, which will be addressed by the recruitment of two new officers (see Item 9).

6. Treasurers' Reports (reports circulated in advance).

- European Treasurer's Report (Rachel Adcock)
- North American Treasurer's Report (Margaret Breen, *in absentia*)

A question was raised in AOB about whether it was time to raise membership fees, which have remained stable since at least 2016. Membership fees currently cover the Society's primary outlay (printing and posting *Bunyan Studies*) and funds remain healthy, but the Treasurers will keep an eye on how things progress over the next three years and consult with the Executive Committee.

7. Editor's Report on *The Recorder*.

Richard Bergen updated us on his work for *The Recorder* and made a request for contributions to the next issue. The meeting congratulated Richard for all his hard work over the last three years.

8. Editors' Report on *Bunyan Studies* (Report circulated beforehand).

Bob Owens and Stuart Sim were thanked for their editorial service.

Vera Camden began a motion to fund the editor of *Bunyan Studies* with some kind of stipend as it is a substantial role. After discussion the motion was propounded: That Editors of *Bunyan Studies* and Executive Committee Members should apply to the Society for reasonable expenses if none are available (e.g. from institutional support) and providing society funds allow. This motion was accepted unanimously.

9. IJBS Executive Roles: Proposal to add a Social Media Officer and Events Officer (2 roles).

Two additional Executive Committee roles were proposed and accepted unanimously:

- 1) 'A Social Media Officer who is responsible for organising and editing the regular blog series which appears, ideally, once a month on the Society's website. They are also responsible for growing the Twitter and Facebook accounts, and promoting the Society more widely.'
- 2) 'An Events Officer who is responsible for organising the Society's annual Regional Conferences, virtual seminars and assisting with the Triennial conference as necessary.'

Action: The Executive Committee will advertise and recruit to these roles.

10. Donation(s) in memory of Dr Roger Pooley.

It was discussed how the Society could mark appropriately any funds donated to the Society in memory of Roger Pooley. In light of Roger's extensive support for early career scholars, the motion was made to rename the Early Career Essay Prize, 'The Roger Pooley Essay Prize'. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Action: Rachel will notify Roger's family and Robert will update the website/advertising around the prize.

11. Membership recruitment and retention.

A short discussion ensued including ideas now listed under item 5. Suggestions also included directing communications at prominent postgraduate communities of students (as at, say, Newcastle University) and at a more global audience.

12. Elections of New Officers.

President: Shannon Murray (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, automatic nominee)

Vice President: Nathalie Collé (Université de Lorraine, France) – **Elected unanimously**

Social Media Officer: Pending

Events Officer: Pending

(Continuing committee members)

General Secretary: Robert W. Daniel (University of Warwick)

North American Treasurer: Margaret Breen (University of Connecticut)

European Treasurer: Rachel Adcock (Keele University)

Editor, *The Recorder*: Richard Bergen (University of British Columbia)

Bunyan Studies representative to IJBS: Robert W. Daniel (University of Warwick)

Webmaster: Joel Halcomb (University of East Anglia) – tbc

13. Any other business.

After the general meeting, the Greaves Prize winners, Neil Keeble, John Coffey, Tim Cooper, and Tom Charlton elected to donate their £210/\$250 prize money to ‘a current or recent postgraduate student who has not yet received an academic post to fund travel or other relevant expenses to enable them to present a paper at the next Bunyan conference when there is no other support available’.

Action: The Exec Committee will advertise this bursary as part of the next call for papers and administer the process.