

# Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting

of the **Costume Society**

held on Sunday

**2 July 2017 9.30**

In the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT

**Present:** Deirdre Murphy in the chair and 38 members of the Society.

## 1. Apologies for absence:

Sarah Bartlett, Lorenzo Caprile, Valerie Cumming, Jean Derby, Anthea Jarvis, David John King, Linda Richards, Anne Roberts, Jill Salen, Sarah Shehadeh, James Snowden, Fiona Starkey, June Swann, Sophie Wilson (14).

## 1. Proxy voting:

The following members had submitted proxy voting forms:

Sarah Bartlett, Lorenzo Caprile, Valerie Cumming, Jean Derby, Anthea Jarvis, David John King, Linda Richards, Anne Roberts, Jill Salen, Sarah Shehadeh, James Snowden, Fiona Starkey, Sophie Wilson (13).

**3. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 10 July 2016 were approved as a correct record.

## 4. Reports

Reports circulated prior to the meeting and approved:

- a) Chairman, Deirdre Murphy
- b) Secretary, Susan North
- c) Treasurer, Chris Godfrey
- d) Editors of *Costume*, Valerie Cumming and Alexandra Kim
- e) Newsletter Editor, Anthea Jarvis
- f) Membership Secretary, Fiona Starkey
- g) Chair of the Programme Sub-Committee, Sophie Wilson
- h) Conference Co-ordinator, Kate Strasdin
- i) Website Editor and Web Media Coordinator Report presented at the meeting:

I joined Hannah Wroe as Communications Sub-committee Co-chair in September 2016, and was asked to step in as Chair and Web Media Co-ordinator in December. Hannah is now on maternity leave and as the happy event is imminent, we're all thinking of her and wish her well. [Deirdre received a text just after the AGM saying Hannah had a little boy the night before!]

I came in as a caretaker at the beginning of the year, getting to grips with all aspects of the team's work. There were some quite dramatic changes at the end of the year as pressure of work left us with gaps to fill for the Blog Editor and Ambassador Manager posts. We thank E-J Scott, Fenella Hitchcock and Julie Brethous for all their great work and very successful contributions. For 2017 we decided to retain some of last year's CS Ambassadors and have welcomed some new faces. We are still three short of our full complement of ten. Jamie Robinson has taken over as Blog Editor and Ruby Valentine as Ambassador Manager, she is also managing CS Twitter Hour.

The online Costume Society community continues to grow regularly. We now have 5904 Facebook followers and this week achieved over 7,791 views for posts. With a successful growing community of over 4,194 followers on Twitter our social media is building both awareness of the Society and daily engagement with them. Ruby Valentine has successfully revived Fashion Hour on Twitter with some very lively discussions and partnerships with the School of Textiles and Fashion Revolution this year. We'd like to know what you would like to see on the website and social media, so please give us your views. A recent poll showed that 53% of tweeters would like us to discuss Fashion and Film for next Twitter Hour. Thanks to Ruby and Vicky for getting this off the ground! For the first time this year we are going to pilot live streaming and also filming the conference for our YouTube channel.

We hope soon to be at the point where we can once again provide weekly blogposts and will be encouraging more

guest bloggers to offer pieces for the website. Blogs may be seen at [www.costumesociety.org.uk](http://www.costumesociety.org.uk). Anyone who would like to write for the blog can email [info@costumesociety.org.uk](mailto:info@costumesociety.org.uk) for more details.

As we continue to grow we need to maintain our social media presence through social media and our blog. Hannah had plans in place to review the current website and to think about a clear communications strategy which will enable us to convert our new audiences into members, applicants for our awards and attenders at our events. The new sub-committee structure should help us achieve those ambitions.

Shelley Tobin  
Web Media Coordinator

## 5. Awards

Awards Reports circulated prior to the meeting and approved:

- a) Patterns of Fashion, Liz Booty
- b) Student Conference Bursary, Liz Booty
- c) Yarwood Award, Shonagh Marshall
- d) Museum Placement Award, Shonagh Marshall
- e) Elizabeth Hammond Award, Janet Wood

## 6. Actions

- a) Changes to the Constitution

all in favour	38
against	0
abstain	0
- b) Financial report and Creston Reeve Independent Examiners

all in favour	38
against	0
abstain	0
- c) Election of Officers 2017/2018

all in favour	38
against	0
abstain	0

## 7. Any other business

The Chairman announced our new Co-ordinators of the Patterns of Fashion Award, both teaching at Birmingham City University: Joanne Jarvis, Lecturer in Performance Design, School of Visual Communication and Louise Chapman, Pathway Leader and Lecturer in Design for Performance, School of Fashion and Textiles.

The Costume Society is looking for a new Vice-chair, a Treasurer, three more Ambassadors, and two Conference Organisers.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10am