



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Saturday 13th October 2018, 2:30pm
University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building,
Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RJ**

Present

Twenty-two people attended the meeting – see Record of Attendees book for their names.

Welcome

Ellen O'Gorman, Deputy Director of the Institute for Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition warmly welcomed participants to the University and the fifth John Addington Symonds Celebration event in collaboration with OutStories Bristol. This is the 178th anniversary of Symonds birth (5th October 1840). He died aged 52 on 19th April 1893.

Appointment of chair and note-taker for the meeting

Cheryl Morgan and Charlie Beaton were appointment respectively chair and note-taker.

Approval of the minutes of the last AGM

Minutes of the annual general meeting held 7th October 2017 were approved as correct.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM.

Annual Report

The Annual Report was adopted, noting that trustees had withdrawn the application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on grounds that the time required to meet the Charity Commission's requirements was turning out to be disproportionate to the benefits, and expressing thanks to Cheryl Morgan and Robert Howes for their activities promoting the Association in the past year.

Financial Report

The Financial Report for the period 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018 was adopted, with one correction at the meeting by Donald Branch who had audited the accounts and created a typo, and thanks to Andy Hole for fulfilling the role of treasurer.

Election of the board of trustees

Four members were nominated for appointment to the board of trustees: Andy Hole, Charlie Beaton, Cheryl Morgan and Chris Leigh. As the number of nominations did not exceed the maximum of twelve trustees allowed by the new constitution and no objections were raised, the nominees were approved by a single vote.

Any other business – there was no other business

Future dates - Trustees' meeting Tuesday, 20th November 2018; Annual General Meeting Saturday, 5th October 2019

Talk

Cheryl Morgan introduced the speaker, Aber Regis of the University of Sheffield, where she is senior lecturer in Nineteenth-Century Literature. Dr Regis gave an illustrated talk entitled *John Addington Symonds: from Bristol via Davos to the archive and library*, exploring the fascinating afterlife of Symonds' *Memoirs (c1899-01)* – his account of life as a homosexual man in Victorian Britain and Europe and the subsequent attempts by various relatives and associates to hide and rediscover his legacy. Dr Regis's talk was followed by a question and answer session and concluded with expressions of warm appreciation for the informative, engaging and entertaining delivery.

Thanks

Cheryl Morgan thanked Dr Regis for her talk, participants for their attendance and contributions and the University of Bristol's Institute of Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition (IGRCT) for hosting the event and providing post-talk refreshments.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Attached:

Annual Report 2018

Financial Report – 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018

And Dr Regis's *Dramatis personae* on the next page.

13/10/18

**John Addington Symonds:
from Bristol via Davos to the archive and library**
Amber Regis
University of Sheffield

A birthday lecture, in four acts:

Speaking out
Forging a language
Dutiful censorship
A daughter's search

Dramatis personae:

Horatio Brown, JAS's former pupil at Clifton College, friend and literary executor.

JAS's first biographer and editor of the *Memoirs*.

Henry Graham Dakyns, JAS's friend, Clifton College assistant master.

Willie Dyer, Bristol chorister and JAS's first love.

Havelock Ellis, JAS's collaborator on *Sexual Inversion*.

E.M. Forster, novelist.

Katharine Furse, JAS's youngest daughter, founder of the VADs and Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire; author of *Hearts and Pomogranates*.

Edmund Gosse, man of letters.

Phyllis Grosskurth, JAS's second biographer and editor of the *Memoirs*.

Lord Ilchester, President of the London Library (1940-52).

Christopher Purnell, Librarian at the London Library (1940-50).

Catherine Symonds (née North), JAS's wife.

John Addington Symonds, poet, historian and man of letters; author of the *Memoirs*.

Arthur Symons, poet and man of letters.

Janet Vaughan, JAS's grand-daughter (Madge's daughter), physiologist and Principal of Somerville College, Oxford.

Charles Hagberg Wright, Librarian at the London Library (1893-1940).