

Lit and Phil Report

Tuesday 13th October 2020

Macclesfield Literary and Philosophical Society

Committee Report for 2019 – 20

Committee members: The following committee members have served during the past season:

Lyn Walsh
John Walsh
Roger Noble
Will Montgomery
Walter Houston
Fleur Houston
Lindy Brett

This season started as usual and then in March everything changed due to the pandemic coronavirus. The government asked everyone to stay at home, and public meetings were not allowed. This affected three talks, March with low attendance, April offered as a presentation and May cancelled. This is discussed further in a breakdown of the season below/later.

Everyone on the Committee is willing to continue for the next season, however we do welcome anyone who would like to join the Lit and Phil committee. The committee's work normally includes Treasurer/ collecting money at the door / serving or organising tea and coffee and biscuits/ record keeping/ speaker hunting. This year however is a little different with its focus on running talks and discussion via Zoom.

We hope you enjoyed last years talks and we hope you will attend and enjoy the upcoming ones which will be by zoom until further notice.

Here is a round-up of last years talks, with dates and attendance:

	Members	Guests	[Total]		
19 Sept	no records		[30?]	The Peterloo Massacre	<i>speaker absent</i>
9 Oct	18	20	[38]	Tracing Lines, Crafting Worlds	Mike Copper
14 Nov	11	11	[22]	Strange Plants	Alasdair Glen
15 Jan	17	20	[37]	Radical 19 th Century Women and Egypt	Emma Anderson
13 Feb	20	12	[32]	Is there more to Biodiversity than meets the eye?	Pam Berry
12 Mar	8	5	[13]	Making Aid Agencies Work	Terry Gibson

23 Apr as presentation [??] The End of Contemporary Art? Graham Coulter-Smith
13 May cancelled [0] The Common Freedom of the People Michael Braddick

Total 172 for five talks, average 29

The Season:

The first talk in the season was hit by the non-arrival of the speaker Helen Antrobus from the People's History Museum in Manchester, who would have been making a popular return appearance. She had changed jobs to work for the National Trust and we think lost touch with her work calendar and email, we had been unable to confirm the talk beforehand but thought her reliable. The meeting was well-attended, and an impromptu presentation by Fleur Houston, ably aided by well-informed audience members, was a triumph in my opinion. Guests were offered their money back, but few of them took us up on this. The discussion was fascinating. In the melee, records of numbers were not kept, but I have estimated an attendance of 30.

The poor numbers attending Terry Gibsons talk on *Making Aid Agencies Work* will have been affected by Covid-19, and perhaps also by previous exposure of the subject in St Michael's Church. In April we had to cancel the meeting with Graham Coulter-Smith on *The End of Contemporary Art?* Graham agreed to do his talk as a PDF with a video introduction, and we invited questions members, to send questions. We do not know how many members tackled the talk, there were a very few questions. Unfortunately due to illness, I am only just getting round to collating and sending these to Graham. In May we were unable to run Michael Braddick's talk *The Common Freedom of the People—John Lilburne and the English Revolution*.

Mike Copper's November talk, *Tracing Lines, Crafting Worlds: Orkney, Stonehenge and the Strange Case of the Grooved Ware Pot* was riveting, by a very accomplished and comfortable speaker.

Emma Anderson's January talk, *Radical 19th Century Women and Egypt*, was equally good. Emma brought Marianne Brocklehurst's diary with her and we were able to view it after the talk.

Although the membership at 29 and average attendance, also 29, look a little low for 2019-20, I think this was a good season until we were hit by the virus. We are now forging forward on Zoom, the membership fee has been dropped to £10, and we commend future talks to our members. Any comments or offers of assistance in running zoom discussions would be cheerfully received.

Lindy Brett, Hon Secretary, for
Macclesfield Literary and Philosophical Society Committee
October 2019

MACCLESFIELD LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
Accounts for Season 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020

Income and Expenditure Account

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Subscriptions (29@£20)	580.00	Room Hire	350.00
Guests (68@£5)	340.00	Print, post, publicity	262.75
Interest	1.89	Insurance	142.60
		Book Tokens/Fees	410.00
		Speakers' Expenses	180.75
Total	921.89		1346.10
Deficit	424.21		
At Bank 1 Sept 2019	1884.43		
At Bank 31 Aug 2020	1460.22		

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	£	LIABILITIES	£
At 1 Sept 2019:			
Community Account	880.62	Late billed room hire	50.00
Business Account	1003.81		
Total	1884.43		
At 31 August 2020:			
Community Account	454.52		
Business Account	1005.70		
2 Unused Tokens @£50	100.00		
Total	1560.22		

Examiner: Rob Cramer

Treasurer: Will Montgomery

Date: 23.09.20.