
LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

121st Annual Report of the Council of the London Topographical Society for 2020

2020 was a landmark year in more ways than one. Like a vast tsunami, the pandemic exploded across all aspects of life including those of the Society. There was no AGM, the first time since our inception in 1880 this had happened; even the two World Wars of the twentieth century failed to prevent the Society from carrying out its legally mandated business. With the approval of the Charity Commission, the Council agreed to take its 2019 business at the 2021 AGM.

The Society's annual publication for 2020 was *London Parish Maps to 1900 – a Catalogue of Maps of London Parishes within the original London County Council Area*. It was the result of a most ambitious project developed from an unpublished work by the late Ralph Hyde, augmented and completed over several years by Simon Morris and members of the Society, with biographical notes and supplementary material by Laurence Worms and an introduction by Peter Barber. The Society is most grateful for the contributions of Linda Fisher and Steve Hartley at Scorpion Creative in dealing with the challenges of copy-editing and designing such a complex publication.

London Parish Maps weighed in at 2.7kg which could have resulted in expensive courier delivery charges, compounded somewhat by the fact there was no AGM and thus no members would have been able to pick up their copy from the meeting venue. However, after an appeal in the May *Newsletter*, Simon Morris was able to organise an enlarged band of volunteers to deliver the publication and personal deliveries were made to several hundred members, usually arriving before those of the courier outside the Home Counties.

Personal annual publication deliveries have been taking place for many years, usually on a smaller scale. This is an opportunity to express the Society's gratitude to all those members who undertake distribution work year after year on our behalf. As one of the two-wheeled stalwarts said it's a good way of getting to know one's fellow members and local topography away from one's usual cycling routes.

Council meetings were held in January, April and September to discuss the Society's publications programme, membership, finances and general administration. For the first time, due to the pandemic, the April and September meetings were held remotely using Zoom technology.

The Society's total income for 2020 was £33,295 while expenditure came to £45,877. The main reason for the deficit was the Council's decision to increase spending on publication production to make the 2020 publication a fitting memorial to Ralph Hyde.

A grant of £500 was made to the Survey of London for the digitisation of first-edition Ordnance Survey maps of Whitechapel to be used in the Survey's two Whitechapel volumes (54 and 55 in the series).

During the year Hugh Cleaver resigned as the Society's Independent Examiner, a post he had held from 1988. The Society's new Hon. Examiner is Brenda Hawkins who audited the 2020 accounts.

During the year 87 new members joined the Society: at the end of 2020 there were 1351 paid-up members and two honorary members: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, our Patron since 1952, and who sadly died in April 2021, and Hugh Cleaver.

The Society's website (www.londontopsoc.org), launched in July 2019, continued to provide a platform for membership applications. By mid-2020 it contained digital copies of all editions of the Society's *Newsletter*, first published in February 1975, and provided

digital access to Volumes II – XXIX of the *London Topographical Record*, the Society's journal, dating back to 1901, the first edition being titled the *Annual Record*.

The Society's *Newsletter* was published in May (No.90) and November (No.91) with articles ranging widely over London past and present.

No. 90: In *Parliament Square* David Harrison outlined its history and transformation from an area full of shops and dwellings to the 'desert' created in the early nineteenth century and the giant roundabout in the twentieth century. Sheila O'Connell explored what can be learnt of eighteenth century London from William Hogarth's work in *Hogarth's London*. The usefulness, or otherwise, of Fire Plugs in London was surveyed by Nigel Tattersfield in his article *In Case of Fire Break the Road*. Andrew Saint described an unexpected discovery in south London in *An Early Speculation in Lambeth by John Nash*. David Crawford continued his investigation of changes to London's historic industrial sites in *Wandsworth's Ram re-rampant*. A short article with photos, *Lockdown in London – some reactions*, recorded the impact Covid-19 was starting to have in the capital.

No. 91: David Gaylard described a new scheme that allowed LMA volunteer staff to work at home during the pandemic in *Volunteering for the London Metropolitan Archives during Covid-19*. In *A Walk through the City*, Mike Wicksteed explored the effects of lockdown. Ken Gowers wrote of the continuation of a twentieth-century tradition in *The Calendarium Londinense*, the London Almanac first produced by William Monk in 1903. *Changing London: Smithfield Market and the Museum of London* traced the battle to save the Smithfield Market buildings from redevelopment. Derek Morris and Ken Cousins continued their exploration of the diverse character of the East London waterfront in *St Katherine's before the Docks*. This edition of the *Newsletter* also contained an obituary for a former Hon. Secretary, Stephen Marks, who died aged 88 in May 2020 and whose work in the mid-1970s did much to establish the Society in the form it is today.

Book reviews covered a variety of subjects including London shopfronts, a history of Fulham Palace, Oxford Street in the Survey of London's Volume 53, British house names,

how animals make towns, London's ringways and a history of the Victoria Tower Gardens.

At the suggestion of members, the Council set up the Ann Saunders Essay Prize in honour of the late Dr Ann Saunders (1930-2019). A prize of £1000 will be awarded annually for an original and unpublished research essay on the topography, development or buildings of London in any period. It is hoped the first award will be made at the 2022 AGM.

Mike Wicksteed

Hon. Secretary

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2020

Income	2020 £	2019 £	Expenditure	2020 £	2019 £
Subscriptions paid by members	24,184	23,149	Members' subscription publications		
Income Tax from Covenants/Gift Aid	4,566	4,189	Cost of Production	32,840	14,294
Total subscription income	28,750	27,338	Cost of Distribution	4,976	2,018
Net profit from sales of Publications	1,924	4,155	Total cost of publications	37,816	16,312
Interest received	1,100	1,324	Newsletter	5,524	5,392
Grant: Scouloudi Foundation Gift	1,250	1,250	AGM (Not held in 2020 due to COVID-19)		1,188
Sundry donations	158	1,714	Website (rebuilt in 2019)	1,566	7,967
Royalties received	113	63	Administration	307	96
Total Income for the year	33,295	35,844	GDPR expense	164	-
Deficit 2020/Surplus 2019	12,582	3,417	Total Administration Costs	7,561	14,643
			Grant to Survey of London	500	-
			Grant to LMA	-	1,472
			Total expenditure for the year	45,877	32,427

BALANCE SHEET 31 December 2020

Assets	2020 £	2019 £	Liabilities	2020 £	2019 £
Money in Bank & National Savings	194,541	202,535	Overseas members' postage	260	220
Advance payments	2,903	4,873	Subscriptions paid in advance	6,100	5,012
Value of Publication Stock			Possible Creditor	3,600	3,600
Stock at end of previous year	4,561	7,336	Total Liabilities	9,960	8,832
Additions to stock	1,260	1,500	Net Worth of the Society	190,556	203,138
Less Value of publications sold	2,749	4,275	Change in net worth		
Value of stock at year end	3,072	4,561	Previous year's net worth	203,138	199,721
Total assets	200,516	211,970	Deficit 2020/Surplus 2019	12,582	3,417
			End of year net worth	190,556	203,138

These accounts were prepared by Roger Cline and were examined by the Society's new Independent Examiner Ms Brenda Hawkins who found no concerns in relation to them.

If you have any questions please address them to the Treasurer elect Anne Ramon (topsoc.treasurer@gmail.com) before the AGM.

London Topographical Society

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

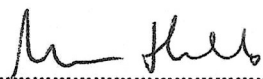
Independent Examiner's Statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Brenda Janice Hawkins BSc

Date 14 April 2020

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