

BURLINGTON HOUSE NEWS

REOPENING BURLINGTON HOUSE AND THE LIBRARY

During the lock-down period, staff have been working hard to keep the Society running, provide what services they can to Fellows and the public, and plan for the eventual re-opening of Burlington House.

The Society is making a significant investment in IT and AV technology so that lectures and meetings can be “live-streamed” over the internet and the equipment will be installed in August. We are developing “live streaming” lectures over the summer on a range of topics and we hope that Fellows from around the world will be virtual attendees. Other digital initiatives are also in the offing and this is surely the way that our events programme will develop in the future.

Our Library and Collections staff alerted Fellows to all the free digital resources on the internet. The Society then provided the Fellowship with access to JSTOR, which has been much appreciated by Fellows and has already

been used over 500 times since it was introduced. We have recommenced a limited postal loans service but it is still being hampered by the failure of Royal Mail to provide a reliable collection service.

The library staff have been working very hard on developing a new library and collections cataloguing system which will transform the way that our resources can be searched. I am very pleased to say that the first part of the system, the new library catalogue, went “live” on 22 July and Fellows will notice a huge improvement!

We have also been working with our Health & Safety consultant to plan for the re-opening of Burlington House once the government restrictions ease. Planning continues to be hampered by uncertainty over what rules on social distancing will remain in force in the future, but at the moment we are aiming for a limited re-opening from September onwards.

It is already clear to us that in order to comply with social distancing restrictions that are likely to be in place, access will need to be severely restricted. For example, if we are able to allow Fellows and the public to physically attend lectures, then it is likely to be on a limited pre-booked basis in order to be able to maintain social distancing in the meeting room.

With regards the library, we want to re-open in a way that minimises the risks to Fellows, staff, and external researchers. Because of the layout of the Society’s apartments, this is proving a very complex task requiring careful planning.

We all look forward to better times when we can return to free and open access to our building, events and collections. Until those times return, we are all looking forward to seeing at least some of our Fellows again when we re-open in September.

PAYMENT OF FELLOWSHIP FEES

The exceptional circumstances in which we find ourselves has forced the Society to evaluate its current processes and look at ways we can improve and upgrade our current systems.

We are encouraging all Fellows to consider paying their Fellowship fees online or, for added convenience, by Direct Debit. Direct Debits do not expire unless instructed and are paid automatically thus preventing missed or duplicate payments. (Direct Debit arrangements are only available for those Fellows with UK bank accounts.)

You can download the Direct Debit form here. Please note that we do require the original hardcopy of the form posted back to us for processing.

As previously, Fellows are still able to make online bank payments. Should you wish to pay via this method, please contact us for our bank details.

Please note that cheque payments are severely delayed at present.

If you have any questions please contact us at finance@sal.org.uk

NEW TRUSTEES

Council and staff would like to thank our outgoing trustees, Alan Lloyd, Elizabeth Hallam-Smith and John Maddison for their support over the last few years and the energy and passion they brought to the role. Their contributions to the Society through support of the Kelmscott project, at our events, with our regional groups and through support of the many ongoing projects has been greatly appreciated.

We are delighted to welcome three new trustees to council this year, Martin Millet, Nathalie Cohen and John Hines. Each person brings with them a wealth of experience in the sector and we look forward to working with them as we move forward.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS &NOTICES

LEAVE A LEGACY TO SUTAIN THE SOCIETY INTO THE FUTURE

We need more funds not only to secure the present level of our activities but ideally to increase them. Legacies can help us target key areas that need urgent attention and support as well as building up the Society’s endowment, enabling it to sustain its activities into the future.

By remembering the Society in your Will, any contribution you make will bring lasting benefits to our activities.

If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy to the Society please contact Dominic Wallis, Head of Development at dwallis@sal.org.uk

MORRIS GRANTS

At a Morris Committee meeting on 2 July 2020, grant awards were made to the following parishes and places of worship:

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| • Stoke Orchard, St James | Wall painting |
| • Hexham, Hexham Abbey | Wall painting |
| • Wretton, All Saints | Wood panel |
| • Hartley Mauditt, St Leonard’s | Memorials |
| • Speldhurst, St Mary the Virgin | Stained glass |
| • Morston, All Saints | Painted tympanum |

The application deadline for the next round of William and Jane Morris Church Conservation Grants is 31 August 2020: further details and an application form are available available on our website.

STAFF CHANGES AT BURLINGTON HOUSE



Lavinia Porter left the Society in May to pursue new opportunities due to her long commute between North Yorkshire and London. During Lavinia’s time as Publications Manager, she has worked on our journal, several major monographs and digitising a major portion of our back-catalogue of research reports.

Lavinia started with the Society in 2016 and will be greatly missed by colleagues and Fellows. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.



Dr Stuart Brookes FSA, has been appointed as interim Publications Manager for six months on a consultancy basis.

Stuart is Senior Research Associate and Teaching Fellow at the UCL Institute of Archaeology. He specialises in comparative landscape studies and the archaeology of early medieval Europe. His recent work has concentrated on Anglo-Saxon civil defence, and the structure of governance and administration in early medieval states; published as *Beyond the : Burghal Hidage: civil defence in Anglo-Saxon England* (with John Baker, 2013), *Landscapes of Defence in the Viking Age* (with J. Baker and A. Reynolds, 2013), and *Polity and Neighbourhood in Early Medieval Europe* (with J. Escalona and O. Vésteinnsson, 2019). He has been editor of *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* since 2014.

Stuart will be working 2 days a week to deliver the current volume of the *Antiquaries Journal* and see the outstanding monograph publications through to print. Stuart can be contacted on sbrookes@sal.org.uk

ROOM HIRE

Due to the coronavirus and following Government guidance on social distancing and other precautions, the Society has worked hard to upgrade our facilities to provide a safe environment for our staff, Fellows, clients and visitors. To this end, with effect from 1 October 2020, we are reopening our facilities for hire to all our clients with live streaming of meetings on social media should you choose to do so.

To observe Social distancing and Health & Safety for all concerned, the following changes have been implemented;

The meeting room can only accommodate 32 seats.

Live streaming is available at an affordable rate.

Body temperature checks would be conducted on all persons entering the building.

The Society will provide hand sanitizers at designated points.

All clients and visitors are expected to put on their face masks whilst inside the building and they should follow directions given by staff whilst at Burlington House.

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide any catering facilities during this period.

The Society is taking every precaution to ensure the health and wellbeing of all our staff, Fellows, clients and visitors to Burlington House. Together we can keep our facilities safe for everyone.

For more information and up to date charges, please contact our Venue Hire Manager (Jola) at jola@sal.org.uk.

SOCIETY CLOSINGS

The Society’s apartments at Burlington House (including the Library and Fellows’ Room) will be closed for the Christmas holidays from Wednesday 23 December until Monday 4 January 2021.



STATUTE REFORM

The two recent but very different cases of Mr Hubert Chesshyre and Dr David Starkey have clearly illustrated the need to reform the process for dealing with the conduct of Fellows and their impact on the reputation of the charity.

Our former Treasurer Stephen Johnson and our Governance Officer Linda Grant have worked very hard with the Officers, trustees and our solicitors to draft a comprehensive set of proposals to amend the Statutes and Orders to allow the introduction of an Ethical Conduct Panel. If constituted, the Panel would deal with complaints about Fellows and the proposals are modelled on the good practices adopted by other charities, membership organisations, societies and professional bodies.

The process of reform was delayed by the COVID-19 epidemic, but in accordance with Statute 18, the proposals were sent to Fellows, who were invited to propose amendments. The four-week consultation period closed on 10 July.

Only 50 Fellows (1.6% of the Fellowship) made any written response. 13 responses were messages of support and endorsement of the proposals, while two were in total opposition. 30 responses consisted of comments and detailed, thoughtful amendments to Council’s draft statutes and orders. A further 5 responses consisted of general comments on the Society and the proposals, but did not include specific amendments. The general comments covered a range of views, from constructive support to opposition.

Council met on 23 July to consider all the comments and amendments that were received, and the revised proposals and voting forms have been circulated in this mailing; digital copies can be found on the **Fellows’ Platform** in **Fellows’ Documents**. Fellows will be able to vote on the revised proposals and amendments, either by post or preferably electronically through the **Fellows’ Platform**, and instructions on how to vote have been included with the mailing. The proposals will be formally discussed at the General Meeting at Burlington House on 26 September 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, attendance will be limited, but the meeting will be visible to all Fellows through live-streaming. Again, instructions on attending the physical meeting and live streaming are included with the mailing.

Finally, I would urge all Fellows, whatever their views on these reforms, to read the proposals and vote on the amendments. As members of the charity, Fellows have a duty to engage with the governance of the Society and to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

John S.C. Lewis FSA
General Secretary

