SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

COUNCIL

Thursday, 9 July 2026
At Kelmscott Manor and Online (via Zoom), 1.30 pm

Prof. Martin Millett, President, in the chair

Present:
Prof Martin Millett
Dr Carol Bell
Ms Shahina Farid
Dr Dustin Frazier Wood
Mr Martin Levy
Dr Karen Limper-Herz
Mr Timothy Loughton
Dr Nicholas Merriman
Prof Anthony Musson
Dr Andy Seaman

In attendance:
Ms Natasha McEnroe, General Secretary (NLM)
Dr Alexandra Ault, Head of Collections (AA)
Dr Sophia Collingwood, Finance Director (SC)
Mr Alan Dempsey, Nex Architect (AD)
Mr Joe Dent, Nex Architect (JD)
Ms Marta Naumova, Governance and Grants Officer (MN)
Mr Dominic Wallis, Head of Development (DW)

Apologies: Dr Sam Lucy, Dr Kenneth Brophy, Dr Stewart Bryant

18/26 Welcome, apologies and declarations of conflicts of interest

i. No conflict of interests was declared.
ii. Apologies from Dr Sam Lucy, Dr Kenneth Brophy, and Dr Stewart Bryant were noted.
iii. New members of the Council were welcomed and introduced: Mr Martin Levy, Dr Karen Limper-Herz, and Dr Nick Merriman.
iv. It was noted that Dr Nick Merriman was appointed as Vice-President previously by circulation.

19/26 Architect's presentation

i. Nex architects gave a presentation outlining an early draft of their Feasibility Study with potential options and outline costs:

   a. Bronze (no added floorspace) [Redacted].

   b. Silver (with the addition of single storey extension) [Redacted].

   c. Golden (with the addition of two new storey extensions) [Redacted].

ii. Opportunities for collaborations with other Societies at Burlington House were highlighted, such as using commercial kitchen and working spaces in the Royal Society of Chemistry.

iii. It was highlighted that storing the collections during the architectural renovation is one of the biggest challenges.

[AD and JD left the meeting at 2:46 pm]

20/26 Minutes from the 12 March Council
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. The minutes from the 12 March meeting were approved and signed subject to corrections.

21/26 Matters arising

[11/26ii] Drawdown from the Tercentenary Fund: Council approved the drawdown.

22/26 General Secretary's Report
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. The Report was presented, highlighting the following:
   a. The Courtyard societies' priority is now focused on developing the maintenance programme.

   b. Beith Shield and St Etheldreda panels have significant potential for research funding.

ii. Magna Carta evaluation report was presented.

23/26 Fundraising Update
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. It was noted that 31% of the target had been achieved.

ii. Council approved in principle the proposed strategy of combining fund-raising for the lease purchase with that for the refurbishment of the building. The overall target will depend on decisions about the refurbishment work. It was agreed that current fund-raising should continue in the interim.

iii. It was noted that the Fellows' contribution have levelled out, but more fundraising activities are planned in autumn.

iv. It was agreed that a fundamental element towards successful fundraising is a good CRM system.

24/26 Treasurer's Report

Papers having previously been circulated:

i. It was reported that the markets are doing well, but addressing the structural deficit is crucial.

ii. It was noted that the risks are changing from compliance to quality of managing information.

iii. [Redacted]

iv. It was noted that a new Audit partner from MKS has been appointed to work with SAL. The Audit for this year was expected to start in September.

v. [Redacted]

vi. [Redacted]

25/26 Strategic Risk Register

A paper having previously been circulated:

i. Interviews for the vacancy of Kelmscott Manor Director would be happening on 15 July.

ii. Council approved Risk Register.

26/26 Past Matters
Papers having previously been circulated:

i. It was noted that the Fellowship Consultation was a useful exercise.

27/26 Kelmscott update
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. It was reported that the Funders' Day went well.

ii. Council approved the establishment of Kelmscott working group to support the incoming Director. **ACTION: MM, NLM and CB to discuss the membership.**

28/26 Support for Institute of Conservation chartership application
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. Council supported the application.

29/26 Committee minutes
Papers having previously been circulated:

i. The minutes of Research Committee were noted.

ii. The minutes of Morris Committee were noted.

iii. The minutes of Publications Committee were noted, and a correction was agreed.

iv. The minutes of Kelmscott Committee were noted.

v. The minutes of Library and Collections meeting were noted. Council approved the loan requests in 22/26i and 22/26iii.

30/26 International Advisory Board (Publications Committee)
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. Council approved the re-formation of the Board in principle.

31/26 New timetable for Research Committee meetings
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. Council approved the new timetable for Research Committee.

32/26 Digitisation project with Watercolour World update

i. An update was given that the project would now no longer be taking place. This was due to preliminary work highlighting problems in the proposed approach to digitisation.

33/26 Editorship of The Antiquary

i. It was reported that new editors for *The Antiquary* were needed by September. It was agreed that one of the new Editor would ideally be a current Council member. **ACTION: all to email NLM with suggestions.**

34/26 Standing items

i. Update on the Fellowship numbers was provided:
    a. Fellows: 3289 (0.8% increase from March 2026)
    b. Affiliates: 766 (6% increase from March 2026)

It was noted that work by the Finance Team had highlighted deficiencies in current data on Fellowship numbers so the numbers reported to Council will need to be revised.

35/26 Approval of another term from Dr Jonathan Goodchild on Morris Committee

i. Council approved the appointment of Dr Jonathan Goodchild for another term on Morris Committee.

36/26 Confidential item [redacted]

37/26 AOB

i. It was noted that a few Fellows would like to organise a debate within the Society about museum objects repatriation. It was agreed that they should submit a proposal to the Research Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4:10 pm.

Prof Martin Millett, President

Ms Natasha McEnroe, General Secretary,

Ms Marta Naumova, Governance and Grants Officer

July 2026