



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY – CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
YR ACADEMI GENEOLAETHOL – YN DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDEL

MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING ON WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2020

Present:

Sir Emyr Jones Parry

(President)

Professor David Boucher

(Vice-President)

Professor Michael Charlton

(Vice President)

Professor Keith Smith

(Treasurer)

Professor Alan Shore

(General Secretary)

Professor Gert Aarts

Professor Simon Hands

Mr Jonathan Adams

Professor Alma Harris

Professor Peter Atkinson

Professor Trevor Herbert

Professor Roger Awan-Scully

Professor Glyn Hewinson

Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell

Professor Julian Hopkins

Professor Kirsti Bohata

Professor Colin Hughes

Professor Gillian Bristow

Professor Ieuan Hughes

Professor David Brooksbank

Professor Ifan Hughes

Professor Malcolm Brown

Dr E John Hughes

Professor Tony Brown

Professor Rob Humphreys

Professor Nickie Charles

Professor Christine James

Professor Lisa Collins

Professor E. Wyn James

Professor Tom Crick

Professor Matthew Jarvis

Professor Michael Davies

Professor Angela John

Professor Sioned Davies

Professor Mari Jones

Professor Alun Davies

Professor John Jones

Professor Ceri Davies

Professor Trevor Jones

Dr Sally Davies

The Right Honourable Lord David

Professor Richard Dinsdale

Lloyd Jones

Professor Shareen Doak

Professor Peter Knowles

Professor Norman Doe

Professor John Lazarus

Professor Christopher Evans

Professor Geraint Lewis

Professor Gareth Evans

Professor Emyr Lewis

Sir Malcolm Evans

Professor Margaret MacMillan

Professor David Evans

Professor Malcolm Mason

Professor Peter Excell

Professor Donna Mead

Professor Roger Falconer

Professor Gennady Mishuris

Dr Dylan Foster Evans

Professor Faron Moller

Professor Caroline Franklin

Professor W. John Morgan

Professor Helen Fulton

Professor Hilary Morgan

Professor Haley Gomez

The Right Reverend Barry Morgan

Professor Claire Gorrara

Professor Iwan Morus

Professor Leslie Griffiths

Professor Helen Nicholson

Professor Alan Guwy

Dr Sue Niebrzydowski

Professor Perumal Nithiarasu

Professor Paul O'Leary

Professor John O'Reilly

Professor Ann Parry Owen

Professor Carole Pateman

Ms Maxine Penlington

Professor Keith Peters

Professor Duc Pham

Professor Ceri Phillips

Professor Judith Phillips

Professor Tim Phillips

Professor John Pickett

Professor Ryszard Piotrowicz

Professor Timothy Porter

Professor Julian Preece

Professor David Ian Rabey

Professor Geoff Richards

Professor David Ritchie

Professor Gareth Roberts

Professor Julian Sampson

Professor Karl Michael

Schmidt

Professor Bernard Schutz

Professor Len Scott

Professor Qiang Shen

Sir Paul Silk

Professor Keshav Singhal

Professor Robin Stowell

Professor Mark Thomas

Professor Dame Jean Thomas

Professor Howard Thomas

Professor Terry Threadgold

Professor Martyn Tranter

Professor Elaine Treharne

Professor Carol Tucker

Professor John V Tucker

Professor Meena Upadhyaya

Professor Ian Weeks

Professor Andrew Weightman

Professor Gavin Wilkinson

Professor Catrin Williams

Professor John Tudno Williams

Professor Thomas Wirth

Present by Proxy:

Professor Russell Davies	Professor Brian Randell
Professor Nidal Hilal	Dr Lynn Williams
Professor Helen Ougham	Sir Robin Williams

In attendance:

Mr Martin Pollard	<i>(Chief Executive)</i>
Dr Sarah Morse	<i>(Senior Executive Officer)</i>
Mrs Amanda Kirk	<i>(Clerk to Council)</i>
Mr Joe Boyle	<i>(Communications Officer)</i>
Mrs Fiona Gaskell	<i>(Fellowship Assistant)</i>
Ms Janice Gillian	<i>(Finance Officer)</i>
Ms Catrin Beard	<i>(Interpreter)</i>

The Annual General Meeting opened at 3.30 p.m.**1. Welcome and Introduction by the Society's President**

The President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry:

- 1.1 welcomed Fellows present, in particular newly-elected Fellows, to the Society's Tenth Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending;
- 1.2 advised Fellows that they were welcome to address the meeting in Welsh or English;
- 1.3 expressed his gratitude to the interpreter, Catrin Beard.

The President announced the LSW 2020 medal winners and congratulated:

- Professor Sally Power, winner of the Hugh Owen Medal (educational research)
- Professor Hayley Gomez, winner of the Hoggan Medal (women in STEMM)
- Professor Nidal Hilal, winner of the Menelaus Medal (engineering and technology)
- Dr Gwennan Higham, winner of the Dillwyn Medal: Humanities and Creative Arts
- Dr Jennifer Edwards, winner of the Dillwyn Medal: STEMM
- Dr Rebecca Diamond, winner of the Dillwyn Medal: Social Sciences, Economics and Business

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted and would be listed as an appendix to the minutes of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 May 2019

Members **RECEIVED**, **NOTED** and **RESOLVED TO APPROVE** the Minutes of the tenth Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on 22 May 2019. The minutes would be signed by the President at the earliest opportunity.

4. Governance Matter

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2020/01, Governance Matters.

The President noted that the Society's governing instruments – in the form of the Royal Charter, Bye-laws and Regulations – could be found on the website:

www.learnedsociety.wales/about-us/governance

The President noted that Professor Hywel Thomas had been elected by Fellows to succeed him as President of the Society. Due process had been followed.

Professor Alan Shore would continue as General Secretary for a second term. The President thanked him for his valuable service to the Society.

The President thanked Professor David Boucher for his excellent service and contribution to the Society as his term as Vice-President for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences had come to an end. He congratulated Professor Helen Fulton on her appointment as Vice-President and wished her well in her new role.

The President thanked and welcomed six new members of Council who had been elected by Fellows to serve on Council until the end of the 2023 AGM. The new members were:

- Professor Roger Awan-Scully
- Professor Claire Gorrara
- Professor Alma Harris
- Professor Qiang Shen
- Professor John V Tucker
- Professor Meena Upadhyaya

The President thanked the outgoing members of Council for their contributions to Council and the Society as a whole. The outgoing members were:

- Professor Sioned Davies
- Professor David Evans
- Professor Densil Morgan
- Professor John Morgan
- Professor Tim Phillips

The President noted that Professor Claire Gorarra and Professor Qiang Shen had been elected by Council colleagues to represent the Council on the Governance Appointments Committee from the end of the 2020 AGM to the end of the 2023 AGM.

The President thanked all Fellows for putting themselves forward to serve on the Society's Council and Committees.

5. Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2020/02 and the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018/19 (the Society's ninth accounting period). These were introduced by the Treasurer. Members had been notified that the Annual Report and Accounts were available to download from the Society's website.

The Treasurer thanked the President for his contributions during the past two terms. He also thanked the staff, in particular Janice Gillian for her work as Finance Officer for the Society.

It was **NOTED FURTHER** that:

The Society's income primarily comprised grants from universities in Wales, admission fees and subscriptions from our Fellows.

The Treasurer noted that the latter funding source would increase as more Fellows were elected. He highlighted the importance of Gift Aid, which generated an additional 25% on the membership fees and on donations. He encouraged all Fellows who could to sign up for Gift Aid.

The Treasurer noted his particular thanks to the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, which supported the Society not only by grant contribution but also with the provision of vital services, including office space, administrative support and IT services.

The Treasurer noted the Society's expenditure. He advised that the Society was in a good position, with nearly £400,000 in total funds.

The President thanked the Treasurer and members of the Finance Committee for their careful stewardship of the Society's resources.

The President invited comments from Fellows on the Treasurer's report. None were received.

Members **RESOLVED FORMALLY TO RECEIVE** the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018/19.

Appointment of Independent Examiners

Members **NOTED** that the accounts had been independently examined by Baldwins; they had raised no concerns.

The President invited comments from Fellows on the Treasurer's report. None were received.

Members **RESOLVED FORMALLY TO APPOINT BALDWINS AS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER** for 2019/20

6. Fellowship Matters

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2020/03, Fellowship Matters.

The President invited the Vice-President for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) to introduce the paper. The Vice-President noted that it had been a pleasure working with fellow Officers, and he would remain on Council for one more year.

The Vice-President welcomed Joe Boyle, the Communications Officer, and thanked him for all his support.

The Vice-President noted the sad passing of ten Fellows over the past year, and a moment's silence was observed in their memory.

The Vice-President noted that the election cycle had been well organised and thanked the chairs and members of the Scrutiny Committees for all their efforts. Fiona Gaskell, Fellowship Assistant, had done a wonderful job to ensure the process was well managed and was thanked for her efforts.

The Vice-President also noted his thanks to Professor Terry Threadgold for her work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, highlighting her valuable input to improve the nomination forms.

The Vice-President congratulated all Fellows who had received numerous awards and prizes throughout the year. It was noted that, since the production of the papers, Professor Valerie O'Donnell (elected 2015) and Professor Menna Clatworthy (elected 2020) had been elected Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The President invited comments from Fellows. None were received.

7. Election of New Fellows

The President called upon the General Secretary, Professor Alan Shore, to introduce this part of the meeting.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2020/04, which outlined the process for the formal introduction of new Fellows.

The President formally welcomed all new Fellows to the Society, addressing them as follows:

“In the name and by the authority of The Learned Society of Wales, I admit you as Fellows thereof.”

Professor Shore introduced Professor Margaret MacMillan, Honorary Fellow, and said:

“Professor Margaret MacMillan is rare but not unique in having rendered a service to the Society prior to her election as an Honorary Fellow.

“In December 2016 I was a member of a capacity audience in the Eric Sunderland Lecture theatre at Bangor University to listen to Professor MacMillan deliver a lecture on her great grandfather: David Lloyd George the Peacemaker.

“I would mention two features of that event.

“Firstly, our late and much missed colleague Keith Robbins delivered a memorably exuberant introduction to the lecture. Also, reflecting the great interest generated by the lecture, there was a very lively Q&A session. Even to my untutored ear some of the questions sounded rather bizarre. However, Professor MacMillan deftly answered all comers. Based on those responses, some of those questioners may have gone home thinking they had asked a sensible question.

“Professor MacMillan has pursued her academic career both in her native Canada and in the UK.

“There is a remarkable symmetry between her achievements on both sides of the Atlantic. Thus her appointments and achievements include:

Professor of History at Toronto University and of Modern History at Oxford

Provost of Trinity College Toronto; Warden of St Antony’s College Oxford

Companion Order of Canada; Companion of Honour UK

Governor General Literary Award Canada; Samuel Johnson prize for non-fiction

“But not all her achievements have been confined to the academic domain, as she has devoted considerable time communicating to the general public. For example, in 2015 she presented the Massey Lectures for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; and in 2018 the Reith Lectures for the British Broadcasting Corporation.

“These are far from being rare forays into the public domain. She is a frequent contributor to news and current affairs programmes such as the World at One on Radio 4. Here she lucidly relates contemporary issues to their historical precedents.

“Due to this combination of skills – make it highly appropriate to call Prof MacMillan a Public Intellectual. And is our pleasure to welcome her to the Society.”

The General Secretary invited Professor MacMillan to address the meeting. Professor MacMillan responded:

“It is a great honour and pleasure to have been elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales. I would have liked to be able to thank you in person, but the Covid-19 pandemic has changed that as it has done so much else. What it has done though is bring out, more forcefully than ever, how important learning and research and our culture are to society. By bringing together experts from fields across the arts and sciences, the Learned Society of Wales helps to make a strong Wales. As someone who is proudly half Welsh, on my mother’s side, I am most grateful to you for letting me become part of such a valuable institution. Many thanks indeed.”

The General Secretary introduced Honorary Fellow Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell as follows:

“Remarkably, our second Honorary Fellow Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell has also been of service to the Society prior to election. As President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Dame Jocelyn offered much valuable advice and assistance to the fledgling Learned Society of Wales. We greatly appreciate that support.

“During the tenure of Dame Jocelyn as the President of the Institute of Physics, I served on an Institute of Physics / International Union of Pure and Applied Physics liaison committee chaired by Dame Jocelyn. I recall one member of the committee who liked to speak at length although I could not always discern the point of those contributions. Dame Jocelyn patiently allowed that member their say, thanked them for their contribution and then steered the committee through its agenda on schedule.

“Most of the remaining remarks I will offer were written by a Fellow of the Society who is based in Llanystumdwy – a place of some significance for Margaret MacMillan. I am referring to Jan Morris, who is now in her 10th decade but still writing – in Welsh as well as in English by the way.

“Her latest book *Thinking Again*, published earlier this year, is in the form of a diary but the entries are numbered rather than dated. This would be irritating to an historian, but I am confident that Dame Jocelyn will be able to date the following entry with some accuracy.

“Here then is Day 64 of *Thinking Again* by Jan Morris:

“Aha! Just for once an entirely happy story in the day’s news. It concerns the astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell who as a postgraduate student scientist at Cambridge in 1967 discovered the existence of pulsars. Her supervisor at the Cavendish Laboratory corroborated the work and he alone was awarded the Nobel Prize for this achievement.

“Eminent scientists, I gather, protested at the unfairness of this but young Ms Burnell accepted the situation without complaint and just went on with her work.

“Which led her, this week to America and the award of the Special Breakthrough Prize which is awarded for exceptional scientific achievement and is worth – wait for it – £2.3 million.

“And how did Burnell now a tremendously eminent Dame of the British Empire respond this time? Why, by gracefully refusing that fortune for herself and passing the whole lot to a scientific charity.

“Bravo! Congratulations from a total scientific ignoramus, Dame Jocelyn, and thanks a lot for the example to us all.”

“And my thanks to Jan Morris for that.

“To close, I refer back to Dame Jocelyn’s role with the Royal Society of Edinburgh; she is also an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy. Today she will, by my calculations, become the first person to complete the Celtic Academies hat trick.

“Welcome to the Learned Society of Wales.”

The General Secretary invited Dame Jocelyn to address the meeting. She responded:

“Thank you for this honour!

“I am originally Northern Irish and have spent a lot of my time in Scotland, so although I have no direct links with Wales, there is some kindred spirit, I feel.

“Soon after the LSW got going I became President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and, particularly during the BREXIT negotiations, had the opportunity to work with Emyr Jones Parry (then the President of the LSW) and Peter Halligan (CEO). It was an especially fruitful relationship, and I’m very happy now to have this continuing relationship with the Learned Society of Wales.”

The General Secretary introduced each of the elected new Fellows, and the President concluded the induction by stating:

“As an elected Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, they undertake to do all within their power to uphold the purposes and good name of the Society.”

8. Annual Address by the President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry

Sir Emyr Jones Parry presented to Fellows his annual address, the text of which would be made available on the Publications page of the Society’s website.

9. Appointment of new President and Chair of Council

The President congratulated Professor Hywel Thomas on his election as President of the Society.

Professor Thomas thanked Sir Emyr and noted that it was an honour to be elected.

Professor Thomas noted that the Society was living in difficult times due to Covid-19, but that as we look to the future, it was well placed to offer advice to government. He thanked Sir Emyr, who had ensured the Society had developed a role as a critical friend of government.

Professor Thomas highlighted that during his Presidency, Sir Emyr had always spoken loudly, clearly and eloquently in his response to Brexit and the impact on higher education.

Sir Emyr had also made crucial contributions to the Diamond Review, in particular to the Society’s advice on student funding and in his efforts to secure government funding for the Society.

Professor Thomas also noted Sir Emyr’s important role in securing the Royal Charter for the Society. He had also built strong relationships with other academies and was influential in securing the Society’s membership of ALLEA.

Finally, Professor Thomas noted the improvements that Sir Emyr had implemented to ensure equality, diversity and inclusion for all members of the Society.

Professor Thomas noted that it was sad that we could not all be together to toast Sir Emyr and thanked him for all that he had done.

Sir Emyr thanked Professor Thomas for his kind words, and for all he had already done for the Society, and wished him well.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

The President noted that the next AGM would be held on Wednesday 19 May 2021.

The AGM concluded at 4.45 p.m.

Apologies for the AGM were received from:

Dr Robin Gwyndaf, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Professor Ann Heilmann, Dr Helen Ougham, Professor Stuart Palmer, Professor Kenneth Edwards, Professor Cara Aitchison, Sir Robin Williams, Ms Ceridwen Roberts, Dr Rhiannon Ifans, Sir Mansel Aylward, Professor Biagio Lucini, Professor Peter Halligan, Baroness Ilora Finlay, Professor Justin Lewis, Professor Eleri Pryse, Professor Nathan Abrams