



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 TWELTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING ON WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022

Present:

Professor Hywel Thomas	<i>(President)</i>
Professor Helen Fulton	<i>(Vice-President)</i>
Professor Michael Charlton	<i>(Vice President)</i>
Professor Terry Threadgold	<i>(Treasurer)</i>
Professor Alan Shore	<i>(General Secretary)</i>

Mr Jonathan Adams	Sir Karl Jenkins	Professor Ryszard Piotrowicz
Professor Roger Awan-Scully	Professor Geraint Jewell	Professor Loredana Polezzi
Professor Duncan Baird	Dr Hywel Ceri Jones	Professor Eleri Prys
Professor David Beerling	Professor Rhys Jones	Professor David Ian Rabey
Dr Carol Bell	Professor Mari Jones	Professor Dipak Ramji
Professor Richard Bevins	Professor Trevor Jones	Professor Dominic Reeve
Mr Charles Burton	Professor Yvonne Jones	Professor Geoff Richards
Professor Elaine Crooks	Sir Emyr Jones Parry	Professor Andrew Rowley
Yr Athro Sioned Davies	Professor Harshinie Karunaratna	Professor Karl Schmidt
Yr Athro Ceri Davies	Professor Peter Knowles	Professor Bettina Schmidt
Professor Siwan Davies	Dr Anju Kumar	Professor Bernard Schutz
Professor Richard Day	Professor Bill Lee	Professor Qiang Shen
Dr Rob Deaves	Professor Dewi Lewis	Dr Hamsaraj Shetty
Professor Shareen Doak	The Right Honourable Sir David	Professor Keith Smit
Professor Stefan Doerr	Lloyd Jones	Professor Steve Smith
Professor Iain Donnison	Mr Pedr ap Llwyd	Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard
Professor Edwin Egede	Professor Marian Ludgate	Professor Dame Jean Thomas
Professor Martina Feilzer	Professor Dame Julie Lydon	Professor John V Tucker
Professor Tess Fitzpatrick	Professor Gennady Mishuris	Professor Carol Tully
Dr Robin Gwyndaf	Professor Faron Moller	Professor Meena Upadhyaya
Professor Manu Haddad	Professor Kathryn Monk	Professor Marcela Votruba
Professor Peter Halligan	Mr Steve Morris	Professor Diana Wallace
Professor Kamila Hawthorne	Professor Max Munday	Dr Eryn White
Professor Ann Heilmann	Professor Helen Nicholson	Professor Howard Williams
Professor Trevor Herbert	Professor Perumal Nithiarasu	Professor Julie Williams
Professor Mererid Hopwood	Professor Ruth Northway	Ms Nia Williams
Professor Ifan Hughes	Professor Katherine Leni Oglesby	Yr Athro Syr Robin Williams
Dame Sue Ion	Professor Olivette Otele	Professor Colin Williams
Professor Uzo Iwobi	Professor Duc Pham	Professor Chris Williams
Dr Layla Jader	Professor Ceri Phillips	

Y Parchedig Athro John Tudno
Williams

Dr Goronwy Wynne
Dr Rowland Wynne

Dr Emma Yhnell
Professor Reyer Zwigelaar

99 in attendance

Present by Proxy 29 Fellows:

Professor Michael Bowker
Professor Sir Keith Burnett
Professor Hazel Carby
Professor Simon Cox
Professor Michael Davies
Dr Cameron Durrant
Professor Roger Falconer
Professor Thomas Anthony Ford
Professor Ralph Griffiths
Professor John Harper

Professor Alma Harris
Professor Angela V John
Professor Venkateswarlu Kanamarlapudi
Professor Hilary Lappin-Scott
Professor John Lazarus
Professor Mark Lee
Professor Gennady Mishuris
Dr Sue Niebrzydowski
Professor Sir John O'Reilly
Professor Stephen Ormerod

Professor Judith Eleri Phillips
Professor Christopher Pollock
Professor Sally Power
Professor Brian Randell
Professor David Thomas
Sir Keith Thomas
Professor Lynda Warren
Dr Lynn William
Professor Susan Wong

In attendance:

Olivia Harrison	<i>(Chief Executive)</i>
Dr Sarah Morse	<i>(Policy and Public Affairs Manager)</i>
Amanda Kirk	<i>(Clerk to Council)</i>
Joe Boyle	<i>(Communications Officer)</i>
Fiona Gaskell	<i>(Fellowship Officer)</i>
Janice Gillian	<i>(Finance Officer)</i>
Cathy Stroemer	<i>(All Wales Programme Lead)</i>
Dr Barbara Ibinarriaga Soltero	<i>(Programme Officer)</i>
Nerys Hurford	<i>(Interpreter)</i>

The Annual General Meeting opened at 2.30 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Society's President

The President welcomed Fellows present, in particular newly-elected Fellows, to the Society's twelfth Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending and advised Fellows that they were welcome to address the meeting in Welsh or English.

The President Welcomed Olivia Harrison who had been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Society.

The President welcomed Nerys Hurford who would be providing simultaneous translation and expressed his gratitude to the interpreter.

The President noted the passing of four Fellows, Sir Dai Rees, Sir Ronald Mason, Professor Malcom Brown and Professor Kenneth Walters and Fellows observed a moments silence in their memory.

2. Apologies for absence

18 apologies had been received and would be listed as an appendix to the minutes of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 May 2021

Members **RECEIVED, NOTED** and **RESOLVED TO APPROVE** the Minutes of the eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on 19 May 2021. The minutes would be signed by the President at the earliest opportunity.

4. Announcement of New Honorary Fellow, Baroness Brown

Professor Michael Charlton noted that sadly Baroness Brown had been forced to pull out of the AGM at the last minute and would not be able to join the meeting and noted that:

Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Professor Julia King, was a British engineer who had reached the top of her profession and was now incredibly influential.

Having graduated from Cambridge University, her early career was at Rolls Royce where she worked on fatigue-resistant alloys for aeroengines, leading to the development of safer and more efficient aircraft. She then moved into academia, taking up the role of Executive Dean for the Faculty of Engineering at Imperial College. She was subsequently appointed Vice-Chancellor of Aston University, a position she fulfilled with great success. During this time, she also chaired the King Review of Low Carbon Cars (2008).

Her achievements had been recognised by many awards, namely FEng, FRS, DBE, including her elevation to the House of Lords as a Cross Bencher.

She was particularly well known for her work on the Climate Change Agenda, and she Chaired the UK Climate Change Adaptation Committee.

Professor Charlton noted that the Society welcomed Baroness Brown to the Society and looked forward to meeting her.

5a. Governance Matters

Annual Report and Accounts, 2020/21 and Appointment of Independent Examiners

The Treasurer introduced paper AGM/2022/02 the Annual Review, Report and Accounts of the Society for the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021 and noted that the full accounts could be reviewed on the Society's website.

The Treasurer noted that the Society remained grateful to all Welsh Universities who continue to provide unrestricted funding to the Society including the generous donation of pro-bono services. Without their support the Society would not be able to function.

The Treasurer thanked all Fellows for their contribution through the payment of subs particularly those that make additional donations. The Society was grateful to all those Fellows who allowed

GiftAid to be claimed against their subscription. By signing up to GiftAid, eligible Fellows increased the value their subscription by 25%.

The Society was pleased to receive the first grant from HEFCW in 2020-21 and hoped that this would develop into a multiyear funding agreement with support from the Chief Executive.

The largest outgoing remained the salaries of the staff team who support the work the Society was doing. The Society's finances remained healthy, there was no unexpected expenditure and the Society had carried over a small surplus at the end of the financial year.

The Society continued to hold sufficient reserves to satisfy the reserves policy and at the end of the financial year had £290,000 invested in the Society's strategic development fund.

The Society's Bye-Laws and Regulations required the audited accounts and annual report to be presented at the AGM. Fellows were invited to receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021 (the Society's tenth accounting period).

The Treasurer was asked if 6 months operating costs were sufficient for the Society's reserves and agreed to review the level of reserves in the coming year.

The Treasurer was asked if the Society would be receiving increased funding from HEFCW and advised that the Society had already received more funding, but this formed part of the 2021/22 financial year and would be discussed by the Chief Executive later in the meeting.

Fellows resolved to adopt the Society's Annual Report and Accounts 2020 - 2021.

The Treasurer noted the details of the independent financial advisors who had worked with the Society over the past few years.

Azets had reviewed the Society's accounts and the Society were pleased to advise that there were no issues or areas of concern.

The Society had been happy with the level of service offered and would welcome the opportunity to continue working with Azets.

Fellows resolved to approve the appointment of Azets, the independent examiners.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2022/02, Governance Matters, Annual Report and Accounts, 2020/21 and Appointment of Independent Examiners.

The Treasurer noted that Janice Gillian was retiring from the Society and thanked her for all the incredible work she had done for the Society.

Janice was highly valued by the staff and Executive team and had supported three Treasurers. All were grateful for her wise counsel, clear head, meticulous attention to detail and above all for her warm and supportive approach. She had made a real contribution to the staff team and the finances of the society.

Janice would be missed but the team wished her well in her retirement.

5b. Governance Matters

Officers, Council and Committees: Outgoing and new members

The General Secretary added his thanks to Janice Gillian for all her support.

The General Secretary introduced paper (AGM/2022/03) to inform Fellows about:

- the Society's Governing Instruments (Royal Charter, Bye-laws and Regulations), particularly those that related to the conduct of AGMs and other General Meetings
- the outcome of the Election of Officers and Members of Council in 2022
- details of membership of all LSW Committees, including Council

The General Secretary advised Fellows that in the 2021/22 Society year the Council had carried out a Governance Review that streamlined the governance process and offered the opportunity for more Fellows to get involved in the work of the Committees.

The Society's new Welsh Language policy was under development and would replace the previous Bilingualism Policy. The Policy was more ambitious and robust and was drafted with staff, Fellows and external parties to ensure it is fit for a growing Society.

Council had revised the Society's Code of Conduct to ensure it was applicable to all Fellows and not just Council members as was previously the case.

During the past year, a great deal of work had been undertaken in terms of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

There had been no changes to the Executive team in the past year.

At their meeting in June 2021 Council invited Professor Ambreena Manji to be co-opted to Council. The remaining members of Council were unchanged.

A call out issued to all Fellows in February 2022 welcoming applications for two positions on Council. The Clerk received two applications and Dr Sally Davies and Professor Iwan Morus were re-appointed to Council for a second term without the need for a ballot.

The General Secretary thanked Ambreena for agreeing to work with the Society and congratulated Dr Davies and Professor Morus on their re-election.

The General Secretary thanked all Fellows who had served on the Committees and advised that details of all Committee members could be found in the paper. It was noted that one of the few benefits of the pandemic had been the need to facilitate virtual meetings. This has allowed the Society to appoint international members to Governance Committees for the first time.

As a result of the Governance review, the Finance Committee had fewer members of the Executive team and had appointed Dr Sally Davies as the Vice Chair. The General Secretary congratulated Dr Davies on her appointment.

Professor Lisa Collins and Professor Mark Rees joined the Committee from Leeds and Australia and were thanked for their contributions.

Similarly, The General Purposes Committee (GPC) had been streamlined to reduce the number of Executive team members on the Committee.

GPC had welcomed Professor Loredana Polezzi and Professor Raluca Radulescu, based in America and Bangor respectively. The Society were very grateful for their contributions.

The Fellowship Committee had appointed Sir Mansel Aylward to represent C1 Fellows. The General Secretary thanked Sir Mansel for agreeing to join the committee.

There had been no changes to the membership of the Governance Appointments Committee. However, following the Governance Review, the Committee had been renamed the Governance Oversight Committee.

The General Secretary thanked The Society's University Representatives (URLS) who had answered the call to work with the Society last year. They were:

- Professor Eleri Prys
- Professor Venkat Kanamarlapudi
- Professor Huw Summers
- Professor Ann Agar
- Professor Chris Taylor
- Professor Marian Ludgate
- Professor Raluca Radulescu
- Dr Louise Bright
- Professor Maria Hinfelaar
- Professor David Brooksbank

The URLS did a great deal of work to support the Society in their respective institutions. They had been influential in helping the Society to achieve the near gender balance in nominees in the election cycle and the Society was grateful for all their efforts.

The General Secretary expressed his gratitude to Professor Helen Wilcox who had stood down as the URLS for Bangor and Professor Maxine Pendlington who had stepped down as URLS for Glyndwr.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2022/02, Governance Matters, Officers, Council and Committees: Outgoing and new members.

6. Announcement of New Honorary Fellow, Dame Sue Ion

Professor Micheal Charlton, introduced new Honorary Fellow, Dame Sue Ion

Dame Sue Ion had made an outstanding contribution to the world of learning, excelling in her field through National and International leadership roles. She was internationally recognised for her expertise, contributions to energy policy and the safe and efficient use of nuclear power.

As Director of Technology at BNFL she led over 1,000 scientists and engineers with annual investments exceeding £100m. Dame Ion built strong UK and international academic research links and engaged actively to inform government policy on many Committees and advisory groups.

Her work afforded her much acclaim and Dame Ion had been honoured by peers at the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society, Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Physics and now the Learned Society of Wales.

Dame Sue addressed the AGM:

“Mae yn anrhydedd fawr i mi gael eich gwahoddiad i fod yn Gymrawd er Anrhydedd gyda eich corff hanesyddol ac enwog a mae yn bleser i mi ei dderbyn. Diolch yn fawr.”

“It is a great honour for me to receive your invitation to become an Honorary Fellow of your historic and famous body and I am delighted to accept it.

“It came as a great, but very pleasant surprise; especially give the numerous famous citizens of Wales who have received the honour in the past.

“Although not a native of Wales myself, my connections go back for my entire life. My godparents were Mary and Robert Gough-Roberts native of Rhos-on-Sea in North Wales and my family spent most summers of my childhood enjoying the wonderful coastline and facilities of Rhos and Llandudno while taking advantage of their hospitality.

“My sister-in-law, Mary Ion, nee Griffiths and now a resident of Australia has never forgotten her Welsh roots and still speaks Welsh with a local club of similar émigrés. Her brother David Griffiths is the well-known Welsh portrait painter who has paintings of famous Welsh politicians and others in the National Gallery and one of Prince Charles in the City Hall in Cardiff which I was delighted to see while opening an event for the Royal Society designed to establish better links between Industry and the great Welsh academic Institutions. This led to a follow up UK wide ‘Transforming Our Futures’ event in Newport initiated by The Royal Society which I was pleased to host, to celebrate the great advances in photonics technologies where the combination of the Academic Strengths and Industry Investment in South Wales have created a world leading technology hub and cluster.

“I served in the nuclear industry for over 30 years before starting to cover energy and science and engineering issues especially the pipeline of future talent more widely. It has been my great pleasure to serve on key advisory and policy committees of the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering with Welsh Fellows of both National Academies hopefully helping to make difference to the wider UK as well as to Wales.

“It has been my great honour over these past few years to have served as a member of the Wales Chief Scientific Advisor’s Science Advisory Committee Chaired by Sir John O’Reilly and to have played a role in advising the Welsh Government Officials on the steps which can be taken to improve the prospects for Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Medicine investment in North Wales. It has also been my pleasure to have worked with key academics at the University of Bangor on the importance of nuclear energy.

“Once again my sincere thanks. Diolch yn Fawr.”

The Vice President thanked Dame Ion for addressing the AGM.

7. Election of New Fellows

The Vice President (VP) for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Helen Fulton, introduced the 66 new Fellows who had been elected to the Society during the 2021-22 election cycle.

The VP welcomed the new Fellows and noted that it was a pleasure to see such breadth of talent among them.

It had been a ground-breaking year for the Society with nearly 50% of all nominations received being for women and it was equally pleasing to see a similar trend in the election results.

The VP invited the President to make a declaration.

The President addressed the new Fellows stating: "In the name and by the authority of The Learned Society of Wales, I admit you as Fellows thereof".

The VP introduced the New Fellows:

Professor Sondipon Adhikari
Professor Davina Allen
Mr Pedr ap Llwyd
Professor Rachel Ashworth
Professor Duncan Baird
Professor David Beerling
Dr Carol Bell
Professor Farah Bhatti
Professor Stéphane Bordas
Professor Paul Boyle
Ms Louise Casella
Professor Sin Yi Cheung
Professor Peter Collins
Professor Elaine Crooks
Professor Richard Day
Dr Robert Deaves
Professor Stefan Doerr
Professor Iain Donnison
Dr Cameron Durrant
Professor David Egan
Professor Martina Feilzer
Professor Francis Griffiths
Professor Judith Hall
Professor Christopher Hancock
Revd Dr Sally Harper

Professor Kamila Hawthorne
Mrs Nadia Hikary-Bhal
Professor Lucy Huskinson
Professor Uzo Iwobi
Dr Layla Jader
Sir Simon Jenkins
Professor Geraint Jewell
Professor E Yvonne Jones
Professor Julia Jones
Dr Kathryn Jones
Professor Lesley Jones
Professor Rhys Jones
Professor Frances Knight
Dr Anju Kumar
Professor William Lee
Professor Colin McInnes
Professor Rebecca Melen
Professor Kathryn Monk
Mr Steve Morris
Professor Olivette Otele
Ms Rachel Podger
Professor Dipak Ramji
Professor Omer Rana
Professor Robert Read
Professor Susan Rosser
Professor Andrew Rowley
Professor Bettina Schmidt
Dr Hamsaraj Shetty
Professor Steven Smith
Professor Stuart Taylor
Professor Thora Tenbrink
Professor David W Thomas
Professor Howard Thomas
Professor Karin Wahl – Jorgensen
Professor Roger Whitaker
Dr Eryn White
Professor Paul Wigley
Professor Charlotte Williams
Dr Goronwy Wynne
Dr Roland Wynne
Dr Emma Yhnell

The President Concluded by saying “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. Highlights of the Year

The Chief Executive introduced a short presentation of some of the highlights of the Society’s work over the past year. Noting that much of the work took place before she joined the Society in February. The Chief Executive thanked the staff team, and the many Fellows who had supported them, in delivering such a fantastic range of activities.

The biggest development for the Society last year was the successful award of just over £100k funding from HEFCW, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. The funding was a result of establishing a new partnership for researcher development with HEFCW and it was ringfenced to cover the following broad areas:

- Further development of the Early Career Researchers’ network
- Support initiatives for mid-career and senior researchers
- Provide small grants for collaborative research propositions
- Strengthen Wales’ voice in key strategic partnerships
- Celebrate excellence and increase public understanding of research

The funding made up around a third of the Society’s income and had funded a substantial amount of activity. Two new members of staff had been appointed to support the delivery of this work, Cathy Stroemer and Barbara Ibinarriaga Soltero. The Fellowship were encouraged to get involved in this important and growing area of work for the Society.

The Chief Executive introduced three main activities funded through the HEFCW grant, noting that they were not standalone projects. The Chief Executive stated that whilst meeting objectives agreed with HEFCW all the activities they have funded were designed to further achieve the Society’s aims and complement our existing work.

1) ECR Network

With the funding from HEFCW, the Society had continued to grow the ECR Network, the Society’s offer to them and the value it was providing to its members and beyond.

The ECR network was aimed at anyone who was starting, or recently started, a career in research or working with researchers. Most members were working in higher education, but the network was also open to those in the public, private and third sectors. It was free to join but in return, the Society asked members to contribute to the life of the network by participating in activities and being open to collaboration with others across Wales.

The strength of the network was in its pan-Wales and cross-disciplinary nature, giving ECRs the opportunity to connect with those beyond their institutional colleagues, and with the broad expertise and experience the Society’s Fellows.

The network had over 800 active subscribers, of whom around 570 had a known affiliation to one of the 8 Welsh Universities. The work of the members of the ECR Network spanned 97 subjects, with a good balance between STEMM and HASS.

Over the year the Society had run a number of online workshops and networking sessions that had been very well attended. Including:

- Maintaining Mental Health in Academia
- Two funding workshops in partnership with Aberystwyth:
 - 1) Applying for Grants and
 - 2) Top Mistakes & Grant Writing Style
- Informal Coffee Mornings to discuss Covid-19 impact and to get the input of network members into future networking events

The Society had also run its first online Research Conference for Early Career Researchers. The event addressed 'the climate crisis and social inequalities' and encouraged an interdisciplinary dialogue amongst researchers based in Wales. The event followed the COP 26 climate summit in Glasgow and was linked with COP Cymru, showcasing the work of more than 20 ECRs.

The Conference attracted proposals from all Welsh universities, and the speakers' work spanned disciplines across STEMM, humanities, arts and social sciences.

The Chief Executive thanked all involved, it was a successful conference with more than 80 participants and videos from the day alongside testimonials from participants were available on the Society's youtube channel and website.

As part of the Society's proposal to HEFCW for next year's funding, and alongside the strategy development, the Society hoped to continue to build on the success of the ECR network to deliver an impactful programme of events, support, and networking activities to develop researchers at all career stages.

2) Research workshop grants

In 2022 the Society piloted a small grants scheme for Wales Studies Research Workshops. Institutions in Wales could apply for up to £1000 to facilitate intellectual and creative interaction and partnership, between researchers from different disciplines and from a range of institutions. The scheme was designed for proposals that were at an early stage of development – supporting meetings and events to advance the exploration of a topic, rather than events to share completed or advanced research.

The Society received some excellent applications and grants were awarded to 7 different projects including:

- a multi-disciplinary project examining narratives of rural change in Wales,
- a project exploring the prevalence of extreme right-wing tattoos in Park Prison,
- a collaborative project seeking to widen International Immigrants' Access to Statutory Welsh/Bilingual Education.

Summaries of all seven projects were available on the Society's website.

A review of the pilot was undertaken and demonstrated the scheme was successful in boosting collaborative research proposals, with projects using the work completed using the grant, to apply for additional funding from other organisations, including a grant from NERC for £10k.

Other impact included:

- forging strong new relationships across academic disciplines and reinforcing and developing existing relationships with external partners
- the development of some rapid and radical new thinking, including changes in research focus for some academic participants
- developing the trust and communication essential during the foundational phase of collaboration

The review also showed that there was appetite to run the scheme again and expand it to new areas. The scheme aligned well with the partnership agreement with HEFCW as it supported research collaborations across Wales. Therefore, the revised Research Workshop Funding Scheme, had launched prior to the AGM, with the funding from HEFCW allowing the Society to expand the scheme to three different strands of funding

- Wales Studies
- ECRs
- HASS.

The application criteria had been updated to promote EDI, with a process to monitor the data of candidates established to ensure the programme was reaching a variety of applicants, including those from under-represented groups.

3) Innovation Roundtables

The Society was convening a programme of activities to help inform and improve innovation policies and practices in Wales. The programme was being led by Prof Rick Delbridge, special advisor to the President on research and innovation.

This was a timely programme given the recent publication of the BEIS Innovation Strategy for the UK, the Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill, the increasing importance of a place-based agenda, and the UK government's spending review commitment to increase R&D spend to £20billion over the next 3 years.

The Welsh Government was reviewing its innovation policies and was developing a new integrated cross-governmental strategy for innovation. The Tertiary Education and Research Bill (Wales) would alter the landscape for research and innovation within Higher Education.

The programme has comprised of monthly roundtables with thought leaders and practitioners in the field, including some of the Society's Fellows. The Chief Executive thanked all those Fellows involved for their input.

The first roundtable looked at innovation strategies for Wales, with subsequent discussions based around the following themes:

- Lessons from small innovative nations
- The role of science parks
- The concept of the innovation commons
- Civic mission in innovation
- Innovation in the third sector

The Society had worked with new stakeholders and the feedback had been that the space provided for open and honest Chatham House discussions on these themes had been extremely valuable. Anonymised reports from each roundtable were available on the Society's website and findings would be collated to identify key themes and consider recommendations to help inform and improve innovation strategies and the innovation environment in Wales.

The Chief Executive concluded by thanking to all Fellows who had been involved in helping the Society to deliver its work and encouraged all Fellows to engage with the Society if they would like to contribute in the future.

9. Announcement of New Honorary Fellow, Charles Burton

The Vice President STEMM introduced Honorary Fellow, Charles Burton.

Charles Burton had been one of the major figures of art in Wales. During his period as a student in Cardiff, he was recognised as a central figure in the influential Rhondda Group and his work was purchased for public collections. At the Royal College of Art he was seen as one of the most lively in a generation which included Frank Auerbach and Peter Blake. At the age of 24 he won the Gold Medal of the National Eisteddfod.

Throughout the 1960s he was Head of Painting at Liverpool College of Art when it was a focal point in the cultural upswing that produced the Beatles and the Liverpool Poets. He returned to Wales in 1970 and played a creative role as Head of Art and painting at the emerging University of Glamorgan where he served as an inspiring teacher whilst continuing to produce works of brilliant serenity.

The range of his paintings demonstrated the international influences on Charles both during the period of National service he spent in Egypt and later in Europe, most notably France. His paintings of the Rhondda and the elegant still lifes, interiors and landscapes constitute an impressive collection of work. His series of paintings of the heroic ambulance men during wartime convey poignantly the awful sense of the horrors of war.

A passionate Welshman grounded in his rich cultural awareness of the valleys in shaping contemporary Wales and committed to projecting the cultural and social significance of the international and European dimension to Wales and its present and future development.

Charles Burton addressed the AGM:

"Thank you very much.

"As a painter, a practitioner I feel particularly honored to be awarded this Honorary Fellowship. I began 88 years ago. I used to be taken to see my great grandmother and she had a tin chest in her bay window. In order to keep me entertained, I was given a little piece of paper and a pencil, and I made drawings. These were very important and probably caused the whole of my future.

"I remember two questions that I asked when I was there as a child. I asked my father how can I draw a mountain and how can I draw a tree? If he were still alive, I would ask him the same questions now.

"The other question was, I was dissatisfied with the pencil and paper. That was a more important question, it is like a four year-old complaining that the violin wasn't tuned properly. That was the main point of my time as a child. At the age of seven I went to Penyreglyn Junior Boys School, it was a wonderful school, we had the same teacher for the whole time we were there.

“They never spoke about the future, only about the next step. The proof of the power of Penyreglyn school is that in my group there was a nuclear physicist, a consultant anaesthetist who worked for the Royal Family, a Harbormaster of Durban, the youngest headmaster in Britain, a trouble shooter for BP and me. Not bad, I think it proves that this little school in Treherbert had the right idea.

“From there I went to an excellent grammar school, but the trouble was, it was during the war so there was no art teacher, he had had to join the forces. So, the point is, I never had an art lesson in my whole life.

“I went to the College of Art and it was a wonderful time because the war had just finished. All the students who had to go to the forces came back and they were so helpful and kind to us youngsters. It was a brilliant time. We were expected to make drawings in sketchbooks and of course you could only draw what you could see. But that was the start.

“After the first two years I started painting and having never been taught, I just looked at as many paintings as I could. I mean, rugby is about rugby and painting is about painting. One thing that was important just after the war, there was a big Van Gough exhibition that I went to see. I had read a book about him, and he said that he had held an exhibition in a café and that was a clue to my future. I then decided that I would paint pictures for the people I knew.

“These paintings were of the Valleys. The paintings were small because the people live in small houses and that was the beginning and maybe the end as well.

Thank you very much”

Professor Charlton thanked Charles Burton and offered a very warm welcome from everyone in the Society.

10. Honours, Prizes and Awards

The President noted that this would ordinarily be the opportunity to introduce the Society’s medal winners, however, the change to the medals cycle meant that the cycle remained open. The President encouraged those Fellows present to take a look at the medals we award and consider if they know anyone who should be nominated.

Paper 2022/04 was a list of all the honours and awards that the Society were aware Fellows had received during the previous 12 months.

The President and Executive team at the Society were very proud to work with such a distinguished group of individuals, the President congratulated all Fellows on their achievements and success.

The President reminded members that the Society were only able to report honours and awards that they were made aware of and apologised if anyone had been missed. Fellows were asked that they contact Joe Boyle, the Communications Officer, to notify him of any omissions. These would be featured in a forthcoming Fellows Bulletin.

This year the range of honours achieved by the Fellowship, included two Damehoods and numerous awards. It was really quite staggering and demonstrated the diversity and breadth of the work the Society’s Fellows were contributing to.

It was very difficult to single out specific achievements when all were such noteworthy accomplishments. Fellows were reminded that the paper did not include the vast number of books and publications that Fellows had worked on throughout the year.

The President congratulated all Fellows for their achievements through the year.

11. Announcement of New Honorary Fellow, Sir Karl Jenkins

Sir Karl Jenkins was an internationally renowned musical composer with a strong Welsh heritage including a degree in music from Cardiff University (B.Mus).

A global survey in 2011 showed Karl Jenkins to be among the most performed living composers.

The most noteworthy aspect of his music, typified by the global “cross-genre” phenomenon *Adiemus*, is its innovative quality and sheer originality.

Defying categorization, his style and integrity transcended musical boundaries over the years. On receiving the Classic FM award for ‘outstanding service to classical music’, his citation read: “As a composer he recognises no boundaries – musical, commercial, geographical, or cultural. His is a way of thinking and composing that is perfectly in tune with the spirit of the times”.

His other works included *Palladio*, the popular piece for strings orchestra, and *Quirk*, *Cantata Memoria* (composed for the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster).

The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace is perhaps his best-known work, approaching 3000 performances since its millennium premiere. His recording of this piece has been in the UK Classical charts for 18 years.

Sir Karl was awarded a Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music (FRAM), where a room has been named after him. Amongst numerous other awards worldwide, he received a knighthood in The Queen’s 2015 Birthday Honours list.

Sir Karl addressed the AGM:

“I thank President Thomas, his associates and the people who nominated me for this fantastic honour which I appreciate greatly, it is fantastic.

“Some of my life history has just been mentioned and I was going to briefly discuss my life as a musical tourist and where it has led me. Because I have been through a few genres and up various avenues, very few of which were planned.

“It was very much that I wanted to be in music and a musician, and my journey started in Penclawdd. I was born in Neath hospital. I am from a Welsh family, but I had an interesting grandfather, in that he was a Swedish sailor who sailed into Newport docks many years ago. Then met my grandmother who was a cockle picker in Penclawdd and went there every Saturday to sell cockles. They met and marriage ensued many years later. And I was born. This is a good opera plot because that grandmother was

drowned out in the Bury Estuary with eight other cockle pickers, they were surrounded by a freak tide, so as I say, a nice opera plot.

“But my father was hugely instrumental. He was a local choir master, organist, a schoolteacher by profession. He played the piano and the house was full of music. Mainly Bach, much of it Germanic in origin, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, the usual suspects. But he was a massive influence and music was always in the house and he introduced me to music when I was about six.

“He gave me piano lessons, an instrument on which I never really shone. I was ok, I progressed moderately, and then in junior school I learn to play the recorder, on which I had far more skill. So when I went in to grammar school at the age of 11, I started playing the oboe, which lead to various youth orchestras. The local Glamorgan orchestra, the national youth orchestra of Wales. Then there came a big musical division in my life when was a teenager. Because I didn’t like what was popularly perceived as being contemporary classical music of the time which meant writing in a style that was atonal music, or serialism, where you write twelve notes and then write it backwards or upside down. But it doesn’t always represent great music to me. Bach could do this trick and still go to the heart as well as the head.

“So, I fell in love with jazz because I loved the improvisatory side of it, it was vibrant, energetic and still tonal within keys. So, I had this dual love going through school and I had an aim of becoming a musician but I didn’t really know in what genre or what kind of musician.

“I listened to Jazz on records and learnt to play a bit. Gradually I played the saxophone as well as the oboe and I always played the piano to a certain extent.

“Heading for Cardiff to do a Bachelor of music degree, which I suppose is one of the few outside Oxbridge that had a fantastic music department, with Professor Joe Morgan and the very well know and brilliant Welsh composer, Alan Hoddinott who was composition and orchestration lecturer.

“I did my BMus degree there for three years and I decided what to do. Well, I thought I was deciding what to do, which was to go to London to the Royal Academy of Music.

“1966 was a pivotal year because that was the year I left Cardiff to go to London to the Academy. During that summer, what was called the first of the Jazz summer schools in the UK was introduced, which happened in Bury training college. I went along to that and I met a composer called Graham Collier who said, when you come to London, give me a ring. So I did and this was autumn 1966, just before the Aberfan disaster, which had a huge impact on us all who were around at the time. Which later lead to me writing a piece to commemorate 50 years with fantastic lyrics by the wonderful Mererid Hopwood who wrote amazing words in Welsh and English.

“Having come to the Academy, I moonlighted whilst doing my daily studies and also working as a Jazz musician at Ronnie Scott’s club and with various other people.

“I joined various bands, one called Nucleus and another called Soft Machine, named after a novel by William Burrows which referred to the soft machine being the human body, so we are all soft machines. That was an interesting and innovative band, it became a jazz improvising band and became involved with fusion music. Jazz is historically played to a swing rhythm that is triplets to those who

are musically inclined, and then jazz started operating with rock music which had even quavers. It was a slightly rhythmic shift but people improvised over this quite willingly and it is quite prevalent now.

“The Jazz bug had been caught in Cardiff and we had a university band who won the inter university Jazz competition open to the UK, in 1963 or 64.

“My main dislike, well not dislike, because to place my love of tonal music, it goes as far as Stravinsky, early Schoenberg, a lot of modern music but later the Second Viennese School, I didn't like so much but I could see the craft in Webern and Alban Berg. Stockhausen, I didn't care for much.

“I find tonal music to be extremely emotional. Without tonality, which someone said was a gift from God, you lose structure where one oscillates against the other and you get minor keys and major keys, you get sad music and happy music.

“My main mission as a composer is to communicate with people without dumbing down what I do myself. One critic said of me that as a composer I was emotionally manipulative which I thought a fantastic commendation that one could move people. And I get letters from people everywhere telling me how much my music has moved them which is very humbling and for which I am eternally grateful.

“As I said I went through different stages. Then, which was pivotal, I wrote a lot of music for television commercials at a time when television commercials had a great standard of production of film and of values and ideas. And people went on to become quite famous later, Alan Parker, Ridley Scott, Tone Scott and Hugh Hudson were writing music for commercials at that time. My area of expertise was generally large orchestral music score.

“However, London being the place it is, where there is someone who can play everything there. There was a huge need for people who wrote so called ethnic music, which I refer to as indigenous music, traditional music from different countries. So I learnt a lot about Indian music, African music and Arabic music. All this went into the melting pot that I drew from, I have always resisted categorisation. But all of us who write music, composer, in the West at least, use the same 12 notes, but in a different order. There is great music in any genre, even a simply played blues or a complicated orchestral ensemble, there is great music at either end of the spectrum. And all of this became the melting pot that was my pallet or my armoury from delving into different cultures. But the important thing to me was that it had to have integrity and not sound like one style being bolted on to another which can sound very shallow and superficial.

“After Adiemus, which had a global impact, I was commissioned by the Royal Armouries around the Tower of London to write “The Armed Man” that also found Global resonance.

“Thereafter I had a series of Classical works like Requiem, Gloria, Sancta Marter. Pieces based on traditional Christian text that were compatible for different cultures. Requiem, for example, had a lot of Haiku poems within the Cristian text sung in Japanese that refer to symmetry commentary on life and death.

“Onward I went and that took me to what I am doing now. None of these stages were pre-planned Adiemus happened by a series of accidents by working in television media and being asked on the back of Adiemus to create a more classical work.

“Then you saw the other works and I have also written a lot of concertos for people in that time at the LSO.

“I have been fortunate enough to write music with Bryn Terfyl, Kiri Te Kanawa and many more for which I am very grateful. I had no plan and I refer to myself as a musical tourist, but by delving in to all these cultures learnt a lot about global music and how it all comes together. I see no barrier of precedence between different styles or different genres of music.

“I am currently writing a long piece called “One World” which is to do with the planet and how we got here both in a biblical and a big bang sense. The text is drawn from different cultures and world cultures and there is a mantra that comes from India and has Indian flavours.

“There is a lot of talk nowadays about cultural misappropriation, but without that I don’t think I would have had a career really. But it is all Good mannered and is all done in good faith, with a complete admiration and respect for drawing from different cultures, nothing is ever demeaned.”

Professor Charlton thanked Sir Karl and offered a very warm welcome from everyone in the Society.

12. President’s Address

Good afternoon. On what I understand is the Society’s 12th birthday – to the day - I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak to you all at the end of another year full of opportunities, challenges and change. I would like to reiterate the Society’s warm welcome to our new Honorary Fellows: Professor Julia King, Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Charles Burton, Dame Sue Ion, and Sir Karl Jenkins - and thank you for today’s extremely interesting presentations.

I would also like to extend that welcome to all of our new Fellows. You bring with you a tremendously diverse range of expertise and experiences and I am looking forward to seeing that further enrich our Fellowship community and the work of the Society. What you all will not be aware of, but our existing Fellows may remember from my speech last year, is that I provided an update on Council’s renewed commitment to equality and diversity. Our initial focus was on the gender balance of the Fellowship, and we set a target to increase nominations of women from a recent average of 30% up towards 50%.

I am delighted to say that we effectively achieved our target of 50% female nominations (38 out of 77) in just one year, and that this translated into almost reaching a gender balanced intake of Fellows. 32 out of 66 new Fellows, 48.5%, were women. We are amongst the first of the major national academies to reach figures like this and I am incredibly grateful to the staff and Fellows who have made improvements to our processes, and all of you who have proactively helped us reach this goal. Whilst we should quite rightly celebrate this leap forward for the Society, we do not want to rest on our laurels. Please keep helping us achieve our aim to be a diverse and inclusive Society, particularly in considering who you could nominate when nominations for next year’s Fellows opens on 1 June.

Although the last twelve months have brought many and continuing challenges, there has been reason to celebrate. We have seen once again the important role of universities and research in pandemic recovery; In a wider sense, Covid-19 and its consequences have raised awareness of the importance of research, and of investing in and supporting our experts. This makes the work of an organisation like the Learned Society of Wales, with our 600 Fellows spanning a huge range of disciplines, all the more relevant.

Celebrating research from Wales is central to what this Society does. That is why we welcome REF2021's recognition of the strength, success and public value of the research from Wales' universities. We appreciate that the REF process requires great effort, and I would like to take a moment to thank all of those who participated, and also thank everyone who supports research in the universities of Wales.

The conclusion that 83% of Wales' research is world-leading or internationally excellent is impressive. The fact that 89% of this research has an impact that is world-leading or internationally excellent is a cause for celebration. These results build on REF2014 and paint a picture of progress. Research from Wales takes place in a supportive environment. It is outward-looking. It is changing the lives of people in Wales, the UK and globally. Our Fellows contribute much to this research, from all subject areas and disciplines. We are particularly pleased, therefore, that REF2021 recognises how Wales' research excels across institutions and across STEMM, the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. Wales' universities are playing a vital role in tackling the many challenges we face today and will face in the future, and their public value is undeniable. We will engage further with the results as we did with REF2014. We will offer further analysis and interpretation in the months to come, to learn any lessons and support a journey of continuing improvement.

One of the biggest changes for the Society this year has been the appointment of our new Chief Executive. Martin Pollard left us in December to join the Primary Science Teaching Trust as their Chief Exec. I would like to thank Martin for his leadership of the organisation over the past three years. The impact of his superb work on our equality and diversity agenda, as well as driving forward our Early Career Research Network in particular, has been evident today.

However, we are thrilled to have appointed Olivia, who started at the Society in February. She brings a wealth of knowledge from her previous roles with HEFCW and Universities Wales. Olivia's insight into the policy environment, her knowledge of Wales' research culture and priorities and her vision for developing the Learned Society's role made her a perfect fit at an important time in our development.

I also want to recognise the extraordinary efforts of our talented staff team, who, with support from the General Secretary, Prof Alan Shore, who acted as interim Chief Exec, managed the transition between Chief Executives with great success – and also the Fellows who contribute in such varied ways to our events, policy work and activities. I am very grateful to you all.

In addition to the highlights mentioned earlier by Olivia, I'd like to highlight a few further developments which illustrate the breadth of the Society's activities.

Firstly, the Tertiary Education and Research Bill (Wales) was a major focus of our policy work. The Bill dissolves the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and creates a new Welsh Government Sponsored Body to be known as the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER). This body will be responsible for the funding, oversight and regulation of tertiary education and research in Wales. The Bill, and the Act it will lead to, is an opportunity to move the sector in Wales into a stronger position to benefit from the R&D levelling up agenda. Throughout the development of this Bill and its recent progress through the Senedd we have focused on the aspects relevant to research and innovation and have argued that it is vital that the research sector is primed and ready to benefit from the UK Government's increase in investment. In particular, we have called

for better protection of core research funding and for an additional strategic duty for research to be added to the Commission's main education-focussed duties. We welcome that the Minister has recently introduced amendments which better recognise the importance of research on the face of the Bill, and which reflect the Welsh Government's ambition for the Welsh HE sector to deliver world-leading research.

Building a more resilient sector is vital as the continued uncertainty surrounding the replacement of European funding schemes bring challenges. Association to both Horizon and Euratom have yet to be confirmed, which could compromise research collaboration, research funding and researcher mobility. Furthermore, at present, the UK government's Shared Prosperity Fund does not seem to be a like for like replacement for European Regional Development Funding. Given how important that investment has proven to be for research and research capacity in Wales, the impact of these programmes to the higher education sector may be significant. We continue to work with the seven national academies (Royal Society, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh) and ALLEA (all European Academies) to reiterate the importance of Horizon association to UK government, European governments, and to EU representatives. The role of the national academies was last year recognised in the UK Government's Innovation Strategy which reflected that "Fellows represent the best of UK science, research, innovation and engineering. They play a major role in attracting, nurturing and retaining extraordinary research and innovation talent."

Recognising strength in collaboration, in the last year we have continued to develop the Celtic Academies Alliance with the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. We are working together to look at the levelling up agenda and its consequences for intergovernmental working at local authority, city deal, devolved national government and UK government level. We will also consider how levelling up might work in the devolved nations, and what could be prioritised. We are also planning our first opportunity to meet in person since the Alliance was formally established last year.

In addition to our outward-facing work, over the past year we have been developing a new Welsh language policy for the Society. The policy is intended to give the Welsh language status and validity in the Society's procedures and activities, and to identify the methods of using and promoting the Welsh language when communicating with others. It also highlights ways of promoting the Society's offer of services through the medium of Welsh. In line with Cymraeg 2050, we will also place emphasis on learning and using the Welsh language, as well as creating an infrastructure to support our staff to develop their language skills and confidence. This is our commitment to contribute to the Future Generation's ambition of a thriving Welsh language, and is a fundamental part of our identity as a national institution for Wales. I am very grateful to Prof Alan Shore and the working group he chaired – Nia Williams, Lynn Williams, Eleri Pryse, and Enlli Thomas, that developed this policy, under the direction of Council and in consultation with the staff team, and I encourage those Fellows who are able to support and contribute to greater use of Cymraeg to please do so.

The variety of events delivered by the Society this year also demonstrate the breadth of the partners we work with. In June we worked alongside Universities Wales to preview the new Wales Innovation Network (WIN), which was warmly welcomed by Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for the Economy and Transport.

In October, Professor of History at Oxford University and Honorary Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, Professor Margaret MacMillan, spoke at a Society lecture event on what can we learn from history to help us deal with present and future crises. Professor MacMillan, explored lessons learnt from past crises, both in her lecture and in conversation with fellow historian, Professor Sir Richard Evans.

And in November, we partnered with Wrexham Glyndwr university to explore how adopting a 'civic mission' changes the way that universities need to work and think. I hope many of you have attended and benefited from one of these, or one of the other events the Society has hosted or supported over the past year. If you missed an event, don't forget that recordings of many of our past events are available on the Society's Youtube channel, in addition to other video content such as our popular "talking heads".

All of this work guided by our Council, which is the Society's board of trustees and therefore responsible for the governance and effective running of our charity. It continues to be a privilege to work alongside my fellow Council members and I am very much looking forward to finally working with you in person this year. Members of Council – and indeed our governance committees, scrutiny committees and medal committees – contribute a great deal of time and expertise to the Society each year.

My final note of thanks is to all of the universities in Wales for the generous financial contributions they make to our work. I'm very grateful that they have maintained their support of the Society throughout yet another challenging year.

Underpinned by all of this support, I am excited to be moving forward into the next year for the Society. Following Olivia's arrival we are recommencing our plan to refresh the Society's strategy over the coming months. We both look forward to steering the Society into its next chapter and we are keen to hear your thoughts as we consider what we want our national academy to be in 5 years' time. Look out for ways to engage with us on our emerging strategy in the autumn.

Our nation has many distinctive assets that give us the potential to succeed globally. The Fellows of this Society are one of those assets and we look forward to working with you, and on your behalf, to use this vast, and diverse, collective knowledge for the benefit of Wales.

As we reach the conclusion of our third AGM online, I sincerely hope this one will be our last to be online-only. Whilst being online again this year has allowed our Fellows from all over the UK - and indeed the world - to join us, I am sure you have also been remembering the benefits of face-to-face meetings as restrictions have been lifting and we have met friends and colleagues again. The Society is already adapting to the new world of hybrid working so as not to lose the benefits that online working has bought us, but we also recognise the benefits of those opportunities to reconnect in person. As such, you will have received an invitation to attend one of two Fellow's receptions in Aberystwyth and Swansea this summer. It will also be our first opportunity to celebrate, welcome and formally admit Fellows elected in the last three years in person. If you are unable to make these there will also be further opportunities to meet in Bangor and Cardiff in the autumn, so I very much hope to see you soon.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

The President noted that the next AGM would be held on Wednesday 24 May 2023.

The AGM concluded at 4.45 p.m.

Apologies for the AGM were received from:

Professor Ann Agar, Professor Cara Aitchison, Mr David Allen, Professor Peter Atkinson, Professor Sir Michael Berry, Professor Michael Davies, Professor Anne Edwards, Baroness Ilora Finlay of Llandaff, Professor Claire Gorrara, Professor Judith Hall, Professor Angela John, Professor Richard Jones, Professor Diane Kelly, Professor Frances Knight, Professor Susan Rosser, Professor Karin Wahl-Jorgensen, Professor Helen Wilcox.