HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – Ealing Branch Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 15th December 2020

The meeting was held online via Zoom, of which the host was Philip Woods. 16 members participated and were welcomed by the chair Peter Hounsell.

- 1. Apologies; Jane Cocking
- 2. Minutes of the AGM of the 10th December 2019 were circulated and approved. It was noted that "Sallie Meier" should have been spelt "Sally Mercer"
- 3. The Treasurer's Report was presented by the Treasurer, Peter Crane. As at the 15th December There was a credit balance of £3,364 in the accounts, which compensated to some extent for the inability of the branch to raise money from book sales. It was agreed that the branch should continue to solicit membership subscriptions but not charge guests for the online talks. Approval of the Report was proposed by Peter Crane, seconded by Elisabeth Sunley and passed unanimously.
- 4. The Membership Secretary submitted a report on the current position. As at the 10th December, there were 42 paid-up local members and 69 national members associated with the branch. Renewal was to some extent affected by the talks being currently online on Zoom. This had a benefit in widening audiences but some members seemingly did not renew because of lack of access to emails.
- 5. The Reports of the Chair, Peter Hounsell, and Secretary, Pierre Thomas, were taken as read . The Publicity Officer, Philip Woods, gave a verbal report.
- 6. Elections of Officers and Committee.
 The following members were elected;

Chair - Peter Hounsell
 Treasurer - Peter Crane
 Secretary - Rodney Reid
 Publicity Officer - Philip Woods
 Membership Secretary - Ann Scurfield

Committee – Officers plus Elisabeth Sunley, Pierre Thomas, Liz Wood, Simon Cockshutt and Norah Moss.

7. The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Secretary, Pierre Thomas for his work over the last 8 years. Pierre stated that he would continue to ensure the completion of the current talks programme until May 2021 and remain on the committee.

8. Book Sales

Because of cancellation of Brentfest and live HA annual conference, no book sales had been possible in 2020.

The meeting discussed possible alternative means of selling books. Sale of our books on our website was a possibility but the result was probably not worth the effort. An alternative might be a table sale from the garden of Pierre's (very central) house. A group of Liz Wood, Simon Cockshutt and Norah Moss agreed to consider the options available for the disposal of the books.

9. Talks on Zoom.

There was a general discussion of the effect of current talks being on Zoom, in particular 3 aspects;

- a. There is an advantage in reaching a wider audience, beyond local members.
- b. Concern as to post-talk and Questions & Answer sessions on line. They did not have the same spontaneity as live meetings. There is a possible choice between live discussion and submission of questions to the Chair via the Chat facility. At all events it may be worth trying to make the session mor spontaneous.
- c. Talks on Zoom have extended our audiences. As and when live meetings are allowed, we should investigate the possibility of having live meetings that are also online, or perhaps recorded.
- 10. Outings. It is currently impossible to organise anything for the moment, but suggestions for future venues are welcome. Attention was drawn to the HA's proposed visit to the Portsmouth Dockyards in 2021.
- 11. Talks Programme 2021-2. This is being compiled by the new Secretary with a group of Committee members.

The meeting lasted from 7.30 to 9pm.