

## THE GASKELL SOCIETY

### **Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

President – Shirley Foster

Chair – Libby Tempest

As Shirley was not able to be present the chair was taken by Libby.

Libby welcomed everyone to the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM in these most unusual of times.

**1) Apologies:** Shirley Foster, Helen Smith, Lea McGee, Diana White, Nicky Clark, John Greenwood, Christine Lingard, Marie Moxon and Alan and Dorothy Shelston.

### **2) Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 6th April 2019:**

As there were no corrections the minutes will be signed as a correct record. Proposed by Janet Allan, seconded by Clive Heath and carried by the meeting.

### **3) Secretary's Report, Pam Griffiths:**

The 34th Annual General Meeting of The Gaskell Society was held at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, on Saturday 6th April 2019.

Shirley Foster was re-elected as President.

Professor Francesco Marroni and Jenny Uglow were re-elected as Vice-Presidents.

Libby Tempest and Ann O'Brien were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Officers and committee members were re-elected en bloc.

Linsey Parkinson and Jane Wilkshire were elected and welcomed to the committee.

Grahame Nairn was elected as Independent Examiner of Accounts.

The Daphne Carrick Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr Katherine Skaris who took as her title "The Unsung Heroes of Elizabeth Gaskell's Fiction." After lunch, Professor Mary Hammond delighted us with "French Novels, Lemons and Lumps of Sugar": picturing the travelling reader in 1850-1930. We were grateful to both speakers for such stimulating talks.

The Autumn meeting was held in Knutsford on 28<sup>th</sup> September. In the morning, The Joan Leach Memorial Lecture was given by Dr Carolyn Lambert, taking as her title, "Narrating Sexuality." After lunch, our afternoon speaker was John Tiernan speaking on "The Hollands of Liverpool and Wirral: Merchants, Entrepreneurs and Adventurers." Yet again we had two outstanding speakers to delight us.

The annual Gaskell Service, held at Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford on 22nd September 2019 took the theme of Friendship. Four members read extracts from *North and South*, *Mary Barton* and Jenny Uglow's *A Habit of Stories*. It was yet another moving service in Elizabeth Gaskell's memory.

The New Year Lunch was again held at The Cottons Hotel, Knutsford and organised by Carolyn McCreesh. After lunch, we were spectacularly entertained by The Gaskell String Quartet, playing a Mendelssohn Quartet and Dvorak's American Quartet. It was a truly memorable occasion, attracting a record number of diners.

On Valentine's Day, we hosted our Romantic Heroes event in partnership with Elizabeth Gaskell's House and the Brontë Society. Our Chair, Libby Tempest, presided over the contest between Mr Rochester, Heathcliff and our own Mr Thornton.

Libby also started a reading group in conjunction with The Portico Library's librarian, Thom Keep. It's a group for those who have never read a Gaskell novel but always meant to and is proving very popular with the first meeting being a sell out to the point where they have now read very many Gaskell novels!

Our Study trip in May, was to Quarry Bank, Styal, where Gaskell's Uncle Peter Holland had been the doctor to the apprentices at the mill. It was owned at that time by the Greg family who were well-known to Elizabeth Gaskell. A National Trust property, it is one of the best preserved textile mills of the Industrial Revolution and a superb museum of the cotton industry.

The main event of 2019 was the Conference, held at Tankersley Manor Hotel, near Sheffield in July. Our theme was Elizabeth Gaskell and Working-Class Culture and Politics, to tie in with the bicentenary year of both Peterloo and John Ruskin's birth.

The scene was set on Friday evening by local social historian, Brian Holmshaw and Blue Badge Guide Ellen Outram introducing us to the history and literature of Sheffield and the Peak District.

On Saturday morning, Dr Lizzie Ludlow opened the Conference with "Methodism and Spiritual Egalitarianism in Elizabeth Gaskell's Fiction" looking at how Gaskell represents Methodist characters who challenge ideas about gender and class.

Our second speakers were a change to the programme as committee members Dr Diane Duffy and Anthony Burton, saved the day by stepping in at the last minute when our scheduled speaker dropped out. They gave a superb presentation on Elizabeth Gaskell's knowledge of working-class people and places in Manchester. The third speaker of the day was Professor Francis O'Gorman, a Professor of English Literature and Chairman of the Ruskin Society, who spoke to us of Ruskin's views and beliefs.

After Conference Dinner, we held a fun literary quiz which was very much enjoyed by all. Professor Robert Poole, author of *Peterloo: the English Uprising* opened our Sunday session with "Peterloo, Gaskell and Cheshire", giving us a rounded account of the event.

Dr Michael Sanders followed with "I'd rather say nought about that...." Chartist silences in *Mary Barton*. This talk followed on superbly from Peterloo. We were privileged to have had a truly world-class line up of speakers. On Sunday evening, Diane and Anthony made another brilliant contribution to the Conference, bringing the house down with a wonderful entertainment, compiled by Anthony, called *The Poetry of Humble Life*.

We had had two very interesting trips on both afternoons, to Oakwell Hall, visited by Charlotte Brontë and used as a model for Fieldhead in *Shirley* and to the Ruskin Exhibition in Sheffield.

Elizabeth Williams led her popular study session on *Libbie Marsh's Three Eras* on Saturday, as an alternative to the trips.

In addition, en route to Tankersley, we visited Cannon Hall, a Georgian country house, to see their fine collection of William de Morgan ceramics and homeward bound on Monday, we visited Wentworth Woodhouse, the largest privately-owned house in Britain. Grade 1 listed and referred to as "the forgotten palace", it is now being restored in partnership with the National Trust.

So ended a brilliant Conference and we look forward to the next.

In May, a local theatre group produced "Gaskell Voices" at Knutsford and Wilmslow libraries. The Society had been asked for some ideas for it and it finally came to fruition.

In June, the Society and the Friends of Elizabeth Gaskell's House attended an event at the Victoria Baths in Manchester. The event was called A Weekend in Words and the theme was local publishers. We both rented tables, displaying relevant material, enabling us to raise awareness of Elizabeth Gaskell to the viewing public.

In August, we were invited to attend an open air performance of *Cranford* at Lytham Hall, performed by a travelling theatre group. Several members were able to attend and enjoyed an excellent performance but marred by typical English bad weather!

Another lovely event took place in Knutsford when three members were invited to a local care home to talk about Elizabeth Gaskell to a packed sitting room of residents. Dressed in our best Victorian dresses, we chatted to the residents over tea and cake and spent a memorable afternoon in their company.

All our Branch meetings continue to be well supported. Northwest meetings were held at Cross St Chapel, Manchester and Brook Street Chapel Hall, Knutsford. Cross Street meetings included Anthony Burton asking "Can we devise a Gaskell brand which could compete with Austen, Brontë and Dickens's brands in literary heritage?" Blue Badge Guide Sibby, spoke on "Ancoats – the World's First Industrial Suburb." Linda Clarke, Retired Archivist at Cheshire Archives, spoke about the Whitfield Collection at Knutsford Library. John Greenwood, Gaskell newsletter editor looked at "Elizabeth Gaskell and the French Connection." Finally in December, our Christmas meeting was held at the Portico Library where Margaret Beetham, retired lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, delighted us with "The Agony and the Recipe: the Victorian invention of the Woman's Magazine."

Knutsford meetings held at Brook St Chapel Hall and led by Dr Diane Duffy studied *Mary Barton* in the Spring session and continued with *Cousin Phillis* in the Autumn.

London and the South East Branches have enjoyed a varied programme.

In February, Professor Martin Hewitt, Professor of History at Anglia Ruskin University, spoke on "Domestic visiting as a means of social knowledge and reconciliation in Gaskell's fiction."

This was followed in May, by "Whose line is it anyway"? William Gaskell's revisions on *The Life of Charlotte Brontë* delivered by Lucy Hanks, a doctoral student at the University of Manchester.

In September, Dr Flore Jansson spoke on "Out in Public with Gaskell's Women." Finally in November, Annick Pommier spoke on "Connectedness in *Cranford*."

The South West group began their programme with two seminars: The first in February, focused on Jane Austen's *Emma* and Anne Brontë's *Agnes Grey*. The second in March, examined *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *Wives and Daughters* by Elizabeth Gaskell.

The speaker for the Spring Meeting in May was Professor Pite whose topic was "*Cousin Phillis* and the Development of the Railways."

A most successful Summer lunch was held in a member's garden and this was followed in the Autumn with Dr Carolyn Lambert speaking on "Marriage in Literature" covering the relationship between Dickens, Gaskell and Fanny Trollope.

The Journal continues to excel under the editorship of Dr Rebecca Styler and excitingly, the Gaskell Journal Index Vols 1-30 (1987-2017) was published and is available to purchase.

John Greenwood is doing an excellent job with the Newsletter and is always grateful for articles.

Janet Allan has continued to represent the Gaskell Society at the ALS meetings.

The Website continues as a most useful source of reference and a source of new members under the expert guidance of Linsey Parkinson, our Website Manager.

2019 was an incredibly busy year for the Gaskell Society as shown by this report. Many thanks to all who played their part in running the Society and as always to our wonderful membership for their continued enthusiasm and support.

#### 4) Treasurer's Report, Clive Heath:

The accounts for 2019 have been examined and approved.

The summary of Income and Expenditure is shown below, which includes the data for 2018 for comparison (this was displayed over Zoom).

##### The Gaskell Society

Registered Charity Number 1098017

Year Ended 31 December 2019

#### Income and Expenditure Account

Income	2019	2018	Expenditure	2019	2018
UK Subscriptions	£4,070	£4,566	Postage	£1,033	£955
USA Subscriptions	£746	£378	General printing/stationery	£458	£544
Japan Subscriptions	£780	£600	Journal (incl. Postage)	£5,229	£3,170
European Subscriptions	£353	£340	Newsletters (excl. postage)	£1,063	£1,399
Other Overseas Subscriptions	£359	£217	Website/flyers etc.	£594	£150
UK Subscriptions in advance	£1,343	£1,451	Miscellaneous	£803	£1,129
Other Income (Note 2)	£2,302	£67	Meetings/Special Events	-£21	£431
Gift Aid Tax Refund (see below)	£965	£1,025	Conferences 2017/2019	-£1,414	£1,481
Interest	£21	£14	Special Costs (Note 1)	£607	£460
<b>Total UK Income</b>	<b>£10,939</b>	<b>£8,658</b>	<b>Total UK Expenditure</b>	<b>£8,352</b>	<b>£9,719</b>
<b>Surplus (-ive = Deficit)</b>	<b>£2,587</b>	<b>-£1,061</b>			

#### NOTES

1. 2018 Binding of Newsletters & Journals for ref. at EG House

2019 Production of Cumulative Index for Journal

2. Royalties from Proquest (2016-2019) = £2,015

The major event of the year was the Conference at Tankersley Manor Hotel – overall finances balanced very closely with a small deficit of about £100 – pretty good for a turnover of nearly £24,000. The finances are spread over two years 2018-2019, the outgoings in 2018 being largely booking deposits.

In recent years we have received royalties from various companies that provide access to online Gaskell Society publications and in 2019 we received £2,015 from Proquest from the USA – hence the much higher than usual Other Income entry for 2019. This actually represented about 3 years of royalties which we had not realised had been held up because of USA regulations introduced relating to currency transfers – it required submission of various forms and emails to sort it out!

With regard to the Journal costs a payment of about £1,000 for the 2018 edition got delayed until 2019, so the actual costs each year were around £4,200. Some of the Subscription income also varies from year to year depending on when payments are made.

Other income and expenditure items are similar to 2018.

Mainly as a result of the Proquest income there was a significant surplus in 2019, which resulted in an increase in the net available assets of the Gaskell Society of about £1,500 over the year.

Dr. Rebecca Styler said it was good to be getting an income from Proquest. Elizabeth Williams said we should thank Rebecca and Nancy Weyant for getting us on to Proquest.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and the accounts was proposed by Libby Tempest seconded by Pam Griffiths and agreed unanimously.

#### 5) Membership Secretary's Report, numbers provided by Clive Heath

Christine Lingard has been Membership Secretary for many years but she is struggling with mobility and has decided that perhaps it is time to give up the office. Libby paid tribute to her and thanked her for all the work and time she has dedicated to the Society. We hope she stays in touch and remains an important part of the Society because we cannot afford to lose her extensive knowledge.

Jackie Tucker will take over the role. It is hoped that we shall be able to offer online membership soon.

Membership – we have a total of 438 members. 333 UK members comprising of 309 single memberships and 24 joint.

We have 105 overseas members, 29 in Europe and 76 in other countries.

23 organisations and institutions have membership.

#### 6) Journal Editor's Report, Dr. Rebecca Styler

Despite the challenges of this year, it has been a good year for the journal. The biennial Joan Leach Memorial postgraduate essay competition took place, with several strong submissions. We are grateful to Professor Kate Flint of the University of Southern California for judging the winner (from the shortlist agreed by the Editorial Board). The winning essay, on bees/beehive metaphors in *North and South*, will be published in the GJ this year. We also record thanks to Professor Joanne Shattock, Professor Emerita of the University of Leicester, for serving as judge for the three previous competitions.

The 2020 edition will be a special issue on 'Gaskell and Working-Class Culture', featuring three articles based on some of the excellent presentations given at the 2019 Gaskell Society conference. We appreciate authors' dedication and patience in getting their articles ready for publication during the challenges posed by the pandemic (e.g. closed libraries and archives).

It is pleasing to note (see Treasurer's Report) that £2000 of royalties have been paid by Proquest for use of the online version of the journal through the Literature OnLine package from 2016-19. The journal has also been added this year to the JSTOR online collection of journals, which extends the journal's reach to yet more university libraries, public libraries and individual subscribers at low cost (some content is free to access).

Finally, we applaud the arrival of the updated cumulative Index to the Journal, covering volumes 1-30 (1987-2017). This was a tremendous achievement and product of diligence by Janet Dudley. Hard copies of this can be obtained via the Gaskell Society website.

#### 7) Website Manager's Report, Linsey Parkinson

We began our programme of enhanced digital activity in August 2019 and a steady increase in visits and page views can be seen as a result. We're building on this through 2020, as can be seen from our improving figures during that year. Thanks to Diane Duffy, Anthony Burton, Libby Tempest and other contributors for a steady stream of diverse and fascinating blog posts.

We've added new content to the site too, including scans of the first 60 newsletters; Nancy Weyant and Meghan Lowe's bibliographies; and (at last!) a complete list of Elizabeth Gaskell's works - many of which have links to where they can be read online, free of charge. Thank you to Nancy, Meghan, Helen Smith, Mitsuharu Matsuoka and others, for all this wonderful new content that's accessible to all.

Web **Views** (the number of pages opened)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2018</b>	1,794	1,980	1,886	1,758	1,625	1,884	1,254	1,380	1,552	1,586	1,037	1,081	<b>19,065</b>
<b>2019</b>	1,903	1,626	1,719	1,518	1,603	1,313	1,362	1,548	1,753	1,837	1,932	1,355	<b>19,470</b>
<b>2020</b>	1,732	1,924	1,766	2,297	2,742	1,944	1,905	2,037					<b>17221</b>

### Web Visitors (individual people visiting the site)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2018</b>	951	901	949	805	813	1,057	613	610	744	675	600	457	<b>9,181</b>
<b>2019</b>	748	745	840	690	797	556	568	632	756	868	958	669	<b>8,827</b>
<b>2020</b>	812	866	842	1,104	1,225	866	873	979					

### How people found the site, 1 January to 31 December 2019

Search engines		Other sites		Additional
Google	7,486	Twitter	279	Creative Tourist, Ecosia, Tatton Park, BBC, Nancy Weyant, Open University, Gaskell Journal, Brook Street Chapel, Gaskell Society of Japan
Bing	319	Wikipedia	176	
Others	405	Facebook	153	
TOTAL	8,210	Gaskell House	141	

### Most popular individual pages in 2019

Biography	6,783	Publications	574
Welcome	4,635	Gaskell House	546
Timeline	862	Join the Society	544

In 2019, the Society responded to 30 different enquiries submitted through the website from around the world: from membership to media requests, literary queries to biographical ones.

We still have a wealth of content to share, so potential contributors are always most welcome. I hope we'll be able to allow new members to join and renew memberships online soon.

#### Social Media

We had to restart our social media accounts from zero in 2019, but are now building engagement back up, with 562 followers on Twitter and numbers continuing to increase. Between August and December 2019, our 324 tweets had 112,200 impressions. We now have a full year of daily tweets featuring quotes from Elizabeth Gaskell's letters, thanks to Diane Duffy.

Please continue to like, retweet, follow and share our posts or, if you're not familiar with social media, give it a try. There's a wealth of literary resources out there to discover.

#### **8) Elizabeth Gaskell's House Report, Ann O'Brien**

2019 was another successful year in the life of the House. As well as the regular opening three days a week, we continued to welcome groups from far and near. The well-established programme of events, included the popular afternoon teas, sketching workshops, weaving workshops and photography workshops.

Naturally as a literary house, talks featured extensively in the programme, and they were further developed with free talks, added to encourage visitors at quieter times. They were mostly on literary or historical topics, with one talk, Peterloo 1819-2019, celebrating the 200th anniversary year of Peterloo. We were fortunate to have Professor Robert Poole giving the talk. Robert has written extensively on Peterloo, including two books; and he is a member of the Society and Friend of E.G.H.

The monthly Victorian Book Club, run by Dr Karen Laird, is regular feature and always popular. There is also the Sewing Bee which meets monthly now and has made many items for the House as well as the marvellous Manchester Quilt.

The House has received further help from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, in the form of a Resilience Heritage Fund grant. This has enabled the creation of two new posts, House Assistant and Wedding and Conference Coordinator, which have been filled by Dympna Gould and Ellie Algeri respectively. As part of her role Dympna

has taken over from Arthur Roberts' responsibilities as volunteer coordinator, and she is already making her mark. She has organised several outings for the volunteers, to Manchester Cathedral, Holy Name Church and farther afield, to Samlesbury Hall; all with a view to giving them experiences in other visitor attractions. Ellie has been very successful in achieving many weddings and room hires.

Volunteers play an important part in the smooth running of the House, acting as room stewards, tour guides, working in the tearoom and gardening. Behind the scenes there are groups who are involved in conservation cleaning, cataloguing, food hygiene, fundraising and book repair. The success and hard work of the volunteer team was acknowledged in June 2019 with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award that can be given to a voluntary group. Representatives of the volunteer group attended the award ceremony at Gorton Monastery to receive the award. More recognition followed when in July the hardworking gardening team won the Britain in Bloom Silver Gilt Award for 2019. No wonder they received an award, for the gardens are beautiful and frequently commented upon, by visitors to the House.

One of the most popular events of the year was the Sound of Servants - the Musical, which was developed by members of the Herizon Women's Group, theatre practitioners enJOY arts (who were both based at the House) and professional singer-songwriter Claire Mooney. It was performed promenade style and explored the stories of servants who worked at the house, bringing them to life through drama and original songs. There were four performances at the house, all of which sold out. The musical connected nicely with the Servants Exhibition which was on at the time.

After the Servants Exhibition closed, National Lottery Heritage Fund, once again supported the House, by awarding a Sharing Heritage Project grant, which resulted in a new exhibition, 'My dear Mr Ruskin... Friendship, Inspiration and Scandal. Celebrating the Ruskin bicentenary, it explores the friendship between Ruskin and the Gaskell family. The exhibition opened on 18 July 2019 and is still on.

The grant also funded an observational drawing project with local community group, TLC St Luke's, and salary costs for the Event Coordinator, Rachel Sills, for her to deliver creative writing workshops and family activities. The family sessions which took place during school holidays proved very popular and the creative writing sessions were also much enjoyed by the participants.

The Friends of Elizabeth Gaskell's House also marked Ruskin's bicentenary, with a trip to Brantwood, Ruskin's former home overlooking Coniston Water. It was one of several events put on by the Friends, to raise money for the House (although the trip was not a fund raiser).

In March there was a wonderful talk and tour of the period rooms by Dorian Church, the curator responsible for period interiors, which are so loved visitors to the House.

There was a special fund-raising performance of The Sound of Servants - The Musical on Saturday 27 April for Friends, where tea and homemade cakes were provided.

The second Friends' Open Day took place on 2nd June and was once again a great success, with a mixture of talks, a garden tour and lunch; an added attraction this year this year were the cello recitals by talented young musician Harriet Taylor. There was also had the exciting announcement about the Volunteers Award, already mentioned.

In October Florence Nightingale was the subject of a fascinating talk by Aled Jones, which traced the life of this extraordinary woman. This was after a tasty chilli supper, cooked by our talented chefs Christine Willgoose and Pauline Eyre!

The Friends Christmas event this year was a little more low key than last year, as the Victorian Society asked the Friends to repeat the very successful Victorian Christmas event from last year, and of course this entailed a lot of work for those involved. So, on 30 November there was a Friend's Christmas Social with a mini Christmas market, gifts made by the Sewing Bee and a second-hand book sale. There was mulled wine and mince pies, and Christmas Carols in the Drawing room accompanied by Robert Nicholls on piano. A good time was had by all!

The Friends raise a considerable amount of money from events and subscriptions; however, we would welcome more Friends to join us, as the year ahead presents new challenges for the House. Having said that, I know that very many members of the Gaskell Society are already Friends, and without them the House would never have been saved, let alone brought to the wonderful state that it is in today.

Before I finish, I must mention, what for me was the most exciting event of the year, the launch of the Bedroom Project. When one of the tenants vacated the room that they were hiring, it was decided not to seek new tenants but to change around the rooms on the first floor, to allow one room to be restored as Elizabeth's bedroom. Work began to prepare the room in November and plans were made to launch a fund-raising appeal in the New Year. Something to look forward to in the future.

And finally, I would like to give a special thanks to Fran Twinn and her successors, Jenny Keaveney and Marie Moxon, who run the London branch of the Society, for all their members' help they give to the House from afar!

Indeed thanks to all members of the Gaskell Society for all your support, which will be needed even in the years to come.

**9) Election of President:** Anthony Burton proposed that Shirley Foster should continue as President; this was seconded by Diane Duffy. All agreed.

**10) Election of Vice-Presidents:** The Vice Presidents, Professor F. Marroni and Jenny Uglow, are prepared to stand again. Proposed by Christine Willgoose and seconded by Jane Wilkshire. All agreed.

**11) Election of Officers:**

i) Libby handed over to Ann O'Brien. Linsey Parkinson proposed that Libby Tempest should be elected as Chair. Seconded by Carolyn McCreesh and passed by the membership.

ii) Christine Willgoose proposed that Ann O'Brien should be elected as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Jane Wilkshire. Duly elected.

**12) Election of other Officers:** The officers were elected en bloc. Proposed by Anthony Burton and seconded by Carolyn McCreesh. Duly elected.

Secretary : Pam Griffiths

Treasurer: Clive Heath

Minutes Secretary: Celia Crew

Membership Secretary: Jackie Tucker

**13) Election of Committee Members:**

Janet Allan has decided to step down from the committee although she will stay as our rep on ALS. Libby thanked Janet for the positions she has held and the contributions she has made over the years. We hope she will stay very much involved with the Society because we cannot afford to lose her expertise.

This means there are 2 vacancies but as the committee is quite large it has been decided to elect one new member. Our next AGM is in April 2021 so we should look to encourage some new committee members to join us then.

The committee to be elected en bloc are Anthony Burton, Diane Duffy, Carolyn McCreesh, John Greenwood, Linsey Parkinson, Christine Willgoose and Jane Wilkshire. Proposed by Celia Crew and seconded by Clive Heath. All agreed.

**14) Election of new committee member:** Jackie Tucker was elected to the committee. Proposed by Libby Tempest and seconded by Clive Heath. Agreed.

**15) Election of Independent Examiner:** It was proposed by Pam Griffiths and seconded by Linsey Parkinson that Grahame Nairn should remain as independent examiner. Agreed.

**16) AOB:**

i) Rosemary Donaldson reminded us that 10 years ago we were in London for the memorialisation of Elizabeth Gaskell in a window in Westminster Abbey.

ii) Pam Griffiths thanked Libby for her enthusiasm as Chair of the Society and said she was a pleasure to work with.

Libby thanked the committee who helped to ensure that the Society runs smoothly in difficult times.

She also thanked Pam who works so hard and so much of it is behind the scenes.

Thanks also went to Linsey Parkinson and Clive Heath.

Libby said it was a pleasure to be Chair of such a friendly and enthusiastic Society.

Libby closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending and for their contributions.