

# MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting

of THE PAST OVERSEERS' SOCIETY OF ST. MARGARET AND ST. JOHN  
WESTMINSTER

held in the United Westminster Almshouses, Rochester Row, London, SW1  
on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 4.15 p.m.

## PRESENT:

Peter Darvall (Acting Chairman) (PD)  
Rachel Whittaker (RW)  
Alan Bradley (AB)  
Raymond Layard  
Alan Kinsey (AK)  
Andrew Stevens  
Anne Mallinson  
Jack Dribbell  
John Stephenson (Honorary Clerk) (JS)  
Peter Handley  
Kevin Taylor (KT)  
Jim Kelly  
Dame Rosalind Savill (RS)  
Lady Reid (JR)  
Christabel Flight  
Rosemary Hamilton  
Frances Blois  
Rosemary Woodburn  
Josephine Barrett

1. **Apologies for absence:** Karen Torrance, Judith Randle, Harold Gould, Sir Christopher Howes, Angela Harvey, Lindsey Hall, Roger Westbrook, Derek Fullarton, David Aspinwall, Brian Chappell, Jan Prendergast, Brian Newbury, Robin Bishop, Michael Messinger, John Wright, David Brown, Nicholas Brown, Marie-Louise Rossi, David Burden, Elizabeth Flach, Joanna Smith, Sir Peter Rogers, Carolyn Kean, Robert Davis, Sir Rodney Brooke, David Powell and Geoffrey King.
2. **Minutes of AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010:** These were approved.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **2010 Dinner Statement:** This was tabled and noted. It was agreed that speakers' expenses needed to be better controlled in the future. KT wondered whether using the Lord Mayor's reception rooms at Westminster City Hall might save significant costs. The area was known as the "City Management Suite". It was noted, however, that we did not pay room hire to the Army & Navy Club, and the figures on the dinner statement included food and wine. AB also emphasised that it would be difficult to view the silver using this suite, but perhaps the Lord Mayor's Parlour could be used. There was certainly support from the meeting for the future investigation of the possibility of holding the dinner in City Hall. Numbers, however, would be limited to 80 or so, and JS said that it would be helpful if we could have potential for at least 100 diners to create a surplus on the dinner while still charging a sensible price.
5. **Arrangements for 2011:** In addition to the dinner, which would take place at the Army & Navy Club on 8<sup>th</sup> November, there was a short discussion of other possible events. RS offered a tour of the Gold Box Collection at the Wallace Collection, for which she was very warmly thanked.

6. **Membership:** The membership has increased, and JS praised the membership drive, especially from Alan Bradley and Robert Davis. He emphasised, however, that new members, especially young members, were still required. PD echoed this, emphasising the curious nature of the Society, the spectacular silver, and the Dinner which was always very enjoyable.

7. **Tercentenary Arrangements:** Lady Reid outlined the arrangements which had been provisionally made for the exhibition at the Wallace Collection, including a possible “loop” film about the silver next to examples of the silver which would be loaned for the purpose. The Wallace Collection Exhibition would cost about £5,000, but significant additional fundraising would be required for the additional aspects such as the film. JR raised the possibility of the Society forming a charitable company, but of course it would be necessary to maintain this for charitable purposes for some years afterwards. It was thought that about £20,000 would cover everything planned at present. There was discussion about the possible sale of a catalogue, using photographs which were already available, in which advertising space could sold.

8. AK was concerned about the time and costs of running a charity, and RS agreed. There was some thoughts as to whether the Society could “piggy-back” on the Silver Society, or another appropriate society with charitable status. There was a general feeling that if it was possible to achieve the fundraising without setting up a new charity, we should do so.

Appreciation was made to the Wallace Collection for offering space for the exhibition free of charge for three months, and also to RW and JR for their persistence. RW reported that Martin Low of Westminster City Council (a member) had offered to help, as had Philippa Glanville of the V&A.

9. **Any other business:** A photocopy of an article from 1890 had been given by Josephine Barrett to be placed in the Society’s archive, and she was warmly thanked. There would be a report for the next AGM on the work being done on the Society’s archive within the Westminster Archive, and PD said that they were receiving great help from the staff there especially from Jo Blyghton.

10. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.