

# THE SYSTEMATICS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

## MINUTES

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2013** Council Room, 5 pm  
Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ.



**Present: Council:** R. Scotland (President), P. Wilkie (Secretary), D. Gower (Editor-in-Chief), R. Wilson (WebMaster), J. Bennett (Membership Secretary), J. Droop (Newsletter Editor), M. Carine (Grants & Awards Secretary) plus 7 non-council attendees.

Apologies: P. Olson (Treasurer), A. Monro (Programmes Secretary), M. Kuhlmann, M. Vorontsova, E. Lucas, M. Genner.

### 1. Minutes of 2012 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted and approved as a fair and accurate representation of the meeting.

### 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 3. President's Business

The President formally opened the meeting by thanking those attending. He read out his report below.

This year, the 76<sup>th</sup> year of our professional society, has been a year in which the SA has consolidated its three core activities of meetings & seminars, grants & awards and publication of books arising from symposia. In particular, this year we have taken the decision to start planning for the next SA biennial meeting to be held from 26–28 August 2015 at Oxford University, the venue of the inaugural SA symposium in 1997. This biennial will comprise four major thematic sessions in relation to Systematics: Ecology, Evolution, Fossils and Taxonomy and will be hosted by The University Museum and the Departments of Zoology and Plant Science. The forthcoming Oxford biennial will take place 2 years after the highly successful BioSyst EU meeting in Vienna attended by some 400 participants from many countries, which was held this year (2013) and hosted by NOBIS Austria. The third meeting of the BioSyst EU follows on from meetings in Leiden in 2009 and Vienna in 2013, and will be organized and hosted by the Swedish Systematics Association. The meeting will take place in Gothenburg from 15–18 August 2017. We congratulate Livia Wanntorp of the Swedish SA on being elected Spokesperson of Biosyst EU.

On the domestic front, and following on from the 2011 NERC report on Taxonomy and Systematics, a key recommendation is to set up a UK Taxonomy Co-ordination Committee to develop a National Strategy for Taxonomy and Systematics. This important initiative is now being taken forward by Ian Owens (NHM) and colleagues and the SA have written and pledged its full support for this timely initiative. The now closed BBSRC SynTax initiative which was set up to provide short-term funding for preliminary research that will form the basis of novel responsive - mode proposals with a substantial systematics/taxonomy/phylogenetic component, is now planning its review of the scheme and we look forward to this report.

For the sake of brevity and lack of repetition I will leave details of our activities to individual officers' reports but I would like to take the opportunity to thank the officers and council members for their energy and commitment to the society throughout the year. Specifically I would like to thank Bente

Klitgård, who retired this year from Grants and Awards, for steering a steady course in administering the Systematics Research Fund for several years. Thanks also to Mark Carine for taking on this increasingly important role not only in overseeing the administration of the awards but liaising with our colleagues from the Linnean Society who very generously provide a substantial part of the purse. Thanks also to retiring council members Maria Vorontsova and Eve Lucas and their continued support in organizing the YSF and Oxford biennial respectively. Special thanks to Ellinor Michel, for her continuing excellent coordination of the YSF.

I would also like to highlight joint activities with the Linnean Society this year. In addition to our shared interests in the Systematics Research Fund we have also had several joint lectures and debates which have been successful and well attended and we very much look forward to more of these joint activities in the coming years. The SA was also invited this year to participate on the Linnean Society Taxonomy and Systematics Committee chaired by David Cutler.

An ongoing issue in need of resolution is the association's archive which until this year has been distributed in several different venues. The main bulk of the archive has been retrieved from Durham where it was deposited and looked after by Gilbert Larwood for many years and it is now held temporarily at Oxford University. Discussions are ongoing concerning consolidation of all archival material of the SA, as well as finding a permanent home for it.

Twenty years ago, in his evidence to the House of Lords Report on taxonomy and systematics, Colin Patterson stated that systematics was largely concerned with two questions; what is it? And where does it fit on an evolutionary tree? These two questions were addressed by taxonomy and phylogeny reconstruction respectively. Twenty years on, with increasing amounts of available molecular data, the systematic literature has added other core questions concerned with timing, origin, assembly and maintenance of biodiversity. These are exciting developments and specimen-based systematic biology is already making and can increasingly make a novel, unique and specific contribution to these more ecological and evolutionary areas of research. The more pressing issue though, is the question of taxonomy and the inventory of species. Quentin Wheeler and Sara Pennak ask the question in their book *What on Earth*: what do you call 2 million slithering, crawling, running, flying, digging, oozing, and swimming species? Answer: A good start. As an aside, another possible answer could be: a biased sample with no plants! Joking aside, Quentin and Sara make a powerful point and one of global importance concerning the capacity and increasing need to have accurate information for the world's species so that they can be fully exploited for the full range of benefits that accrue from biodiversity. It seems, in many parts of the world, assimilating and funding taxonomic research as part of a modern and contemporary research agenda remains inherently problematic and subsequently taxonomic capacity continues to be squeezed at the expense of other priorities. The Systematics Association, is playing an active role, through our activities, to try and ensure a healthy future and capacity for training and research in taxonomy.

## Q&A

It was asked what representation the SA has on BioSyst and noted that the Leiden meeting had produced several SA volumes. Robert Scotland replied that as President of the SA he has a place on the BioSyst council. Unfortunately he was not able to attend the meeting in Vienna due to teaching commitments but that Ellinor Michel had represented him. He commented that UK attendance was rather poor at the meeting and that this may have been due to relatively high cost of attendance.

## 4. Treasurer's Report

Peter Wilkie read out the report below on behalf of Pete Olson:

The finances of the Association remain healthy and saw a significant increase in the value of our stock portfolio, bringing the net worth of the Association to an all-time high of £117K as of 30 April 2013. Royalties and investment income remained stable with the previous financial year, whereas there was a significant decrease in subscription income (£3,856 cf. £5,880) compared to the peak in the 2011-12 FY. Total expenditure remained effectively the same as in previous years. Moreover,

although the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration resulted in a ~ £1K loss, total income and expenditure for the year were nearly balanced, which is more or less expected of a charitable organisation. At the same time, we've continued to reinvest our largest stock dividends (i.e. M&G Charifund; a mutual investment fund designed for charities) and have benefited from a steep rise in share values. It should be noted, however, that the markets remain volatile and some of these gains in share value have decreased in the current FY. I wish to thank Neil Greenwood, NHM Director of Finance and Corporate Services, for once again charitably offering his time and expertise to examine our accounts.

Further to my AGM report, it can be added that the 2012-13 FY accounts have now been approved by Neil Greenwood, Finance Director of the NHM.  
P. Olson 25 Nov. 2013

| THE SYSTEMATICS ASSOCIATION                             |         |                 |                 |
|---|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Accounts for the Year to 30 April 2013                  |         |                 |                 |
| 1. Receipts & Payments Account (General Funds)          |         |                 |                 |
| Income Receipts   | £       | £               | cf. 2012        |
| Member Subscriptions                                    | £3,856  |                 | £5,880          |
| Royalties   | £7,203  |                 | £6,559          |
| Investment Income                                       |         |                 |                 |
| <i>Bank Interest</i>                                    | £89     |                 | £21             |
| <i>Dividends- cash</i>                                  | £1,185  |                 | £1,180          |
| <i>Dividends- units</i>                                 | £2,686  |                 | £2,384          |
|   |         | £15,019         | £16,024         |
| Other Receipts  |         |                 |                 |
| Administrative Income (CoSyst)                          | £2,500  |                 | £2,500          |
| 75th Anniversary Tickets                                | £3,556  |                 | £1,002          |
| Refunds (grants, etc.)                                  | £154    |                 | £323            |
| Miscellaneous (B Leadbetter deposit)                    | £723    |                 | £0              |
| Donations   | £0      |                 | £20             |
|   |         | £6,933          | £4,525          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                     |         | <b>£21,952</b>  | <b>£20,549</b>  |
| Direct Charitable Expenditure                           |         |                 |                 |
| AGM/Policy/Huxley Lectures                              | £684    |                 | £4,612          |
| Grants & Awards   | £6,000  |                 | £6,000          |
| Newsletter/VWWV   | £1,452  |                 | £1,413          |
| 75th Anniversary Expenditure                            | £6,147  |                 | £605            |
|   |         | £14,283         | £12,630         |
| Other Expenditure                                       |         |                 |                 |
| Secretarial Expenses                                    | £52     |                 | £97             |
| Officers Expenses                                       | £807    |                 | £717            |
| Council Member's Expenses                               | £361    |                 | £0              |
| Hire of Rooms & Catering                                | £2,819  |                 | £2,361          |
| Biennial Expenses incl Symp Support                     | £0      |                 | £40             |
| Miscellaneous (B Leadbetter return)                     | £723    |                 | £0              |
| Bank Charges  | £0      |                 | £26             |
|   |         | £4,762          | £3,244          |
| Payments for Investment Assets                          |         |                 |                 |
| New Investments   | £2,686  | £2,686          | £2,384          |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                                |         | <b>£21,730</b>  | <b>£18,258</b>  |
| <b>Net Receipts for Year</b>                            |         | <b>£222</b>     | <b>£2,291</b>   |
| <b>Bank Balances at 30 April 2012</b>                   |         | <b>£30,356</b>  | <b>£28,005</b>  |
| <b>Bank Balances at 30 April 2013</b>                   |         | <b>£30,578</b>  | <b>£30,356</b>  |
| 2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 30 April 2013 |         |                 |                 |
| Monetary Assets   | £       | £               |                 |
| Bank and Cash balances                                  |         |                 |                 |
| HSBC Treasurer's Account                                | £9,478  |                 | £9,346          |
| Triodos Savings Account                                 | £21,099 |                 | £21,010         |
| Total For General Purposes                              |         | £30,577         | £30,356         |
| Investment Assets as of 30 April 2013                   |         |                 |                 |
| Charinco  | £12,874 |                 | £12,379         |
| M&G Charifund   | £59,959 |                 | £48,312         |
| COIF Charities Investments                              | £13,514 |                 | £11,952         |
|   |         | £86,347         | £72,643         |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                     |         | <b>£116,924</b> | <b>£102,999</b> |

Peter D. Olson, 01 May 2013  
For and behalf of the Council of the Systematics Association

#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE SYSTEMATICS ASSOCIATION

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - \* to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - \* to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act
 have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Neil Greenwood CIPFA  
Qualification: Director of Finance, Natural History Museum  
Address: Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK  
Date:

## **Q&A**

It was asked why there was an apparent large fall in the number of members (represented in the fall in subscription income). The Membership Secretary replied that this was artificial and that membership numbers had stayed relatively stable. The difference in income from subscriptions was due to the SA claiming a 5 year backlog in gift aid related to subscriptions during the 2011-12 period.

The President thanked Pete for his continuing efficient management of the SA finances.

## **5. Programme Secretary's Report**

Peter Wilkie read out the report below on behalf of Alex Monroe:

The Young Systematists Forum, Sir Julian Huxley and President's Lecture were held as planned. Mike Benton gave a thought-provoking talk on the value of fossils in exploring the radiations in dinosaurs which resulted in birds. Juliet Brodie as exiting President gave an exciting insight into the rapidly developing research field of algal evolution with an emphasis on sea-weeds. A special thanks is due to Ellinor Michel and Maria Vorontsova who delivered yet another magnificent Young Systematists' Forum, which together with the Research Fund and our publications probably represent our biggest impact in Systematics and Taxonomy.

In addition to our in-house events we also hosted two joint events with the Linnean Society: the Biodiversity Policy Lecture and the Joint Debate. The Biodiversity Policy Lecture by Julian Hosking (Natural England) and held at the Astronomical Society's rooms was a discussion about the conservation of threatened breeds which influence the British landscape. The Joint Debate will be a high profile exchange of views between George Monbiot, Clive Hambler (Oxford University), Aidan Lonergan (RSPB) and Miles King on whether the British conservation model is unambitious, irrational and afraid of nature.

We are also very proud to support the Willi Hennig Symposium organized by David Williams (Natural History Museum) and held on November 27 at the Linnean Society which celebrates the centenary of Hennig's birth and is entitled 'His Life, Legacy and the Future of Phylogenetic Systematics'.

### **Confirmed SA Programme**

#### **Wednesday November 13 2013**

Linnean Society / Systematics Association debate: 'The British conservation model: unambitious, irrational and afraid of nature? A debate between conservationists and rewilders'. Mr George Monbiot (Best-selling author and columnist), Mr Clive Hambler (Stipendiary Lecturer in Biological and Human Sciences, Hertford College – University of Oxford), Mr Aidan Lonergan (Futurescapes Manager, RSPB),

Mr Miles King FLS (Conservationist and Commentator).

#### **Wednesday November 27 2013**

The Linnean Society. Willi Hennig Symposium. Organized by Dave Williams (NHM).

Sponsored jointly with the Linnean Society and the Natural History Museum

Speakers: Wili Xylander, Charissa Varma, David Williams, Ole Seberg, Pascal Tassy, Leandro C. S. Assis, Marcelo Carvalho, Malte Ebach, Andy Brower, Gareth Nelson, Quentin Wheeler and Michael Schmitt.

#### **Thur. 28 November 2013**

##### **Annual General Meeting/President's lecture**

The Linnean Society, Speaker: John Woods. *Plant collecting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

#### **Fri. 29th November 2013**

##### **Young Systematist's Forum 2013**

NHM London

#### **\*Thur. 17 April 2014**

**7th Annual Biodiversity Policy Lecture 2013** (Joint with The Linnean Society.)  
The Linnean Society. Prof. Stephen Blackmore. *The Darwin Initiative*

**Wed. 19 June 2014**

**Sir Julian Huxley Lecture**

Natural History Museum Flett Theatre. Speaker to be confirmed.

**2015 Systematics Association Biennial**

This will be held at Oxford University. It will take place between the 26 and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and consist of 3 full days. It is hoped that attendance would be between 200-300 people.

## **Q&A**

There were no questions.

The President thanked Alex for his work over the past year. He also thanked the YSF organising committee and noted that 120 people had already registered for this event.

## **6. Editor-in-Chief's Report**

David Gower presented the following report:

The main news for the year since 28 November 2012 (note: all sales figures correct only to 07 November 2013):

(1) One SA Special Volume has been published since the 2012 AGM:

**83. Wilkin & Mayo, *Early Events in Monocot Evolution***

HB @ £60.00, published by CUP, May 2013.

170 copies sold

(2) The sales figures for the other SA Special Volumes published since the 2008-10 hiatus are as follows:

**77. Upchurch, McGowan and Slater, *Palaeogeography and Palaeobiogeography: Biodiversity in Space and Time*.**

HB @ £76.99, published by CRC Press, October 2011.

253 copies sold (35 since last AGM)

**78. Hodkinson, Jones, Waldren and Parnell *Climate Change, Ecology and Systematics*.**

HB @ £75.00, published by CUP, April 2011.

651 copies sold (116 since last AGM)

**79. Fontaneto, *Biogeography of microscopic organisms. Is everything small everywhere?***

HB @ £60.00, published by CUP, May 2011.

395 copies sold (99 since last AGM)

**80. Wanntorp and Craene, *Flowers on the Tree of Life***

HB @ £60.00, published by CUP, September 2011.

314 copies sold (71 since last AGM)

**81. Patiny, *Evolution of Plant-Pollinator Interactions*.**

HB @ £75.00, published by CUP, December 2011.

497 copies sold (149 since last AGM)

**82. Gower, Johnson, Richardson, Rosen, Rüber and Williams *Biotic Evolution and Environmental Change in Southeast Asia***

HB @ £70.00 – Published by CUP, July 2012.

238 copies sold (116 since last AGM)

Total sales since the last AGM are 827 volumes, down on the previous year (959 volumes)

(3) The manuscript for one additional Special Volume is almost complete, due to be submitted to CUP before Christmas 2013:

*Descriptive Taxonomy; the foundation of biodiversity research*, edited by Mark Watson, Chris Lyal and Colin Pendry.

(4) One additional CUP volume is at an earlier stage, with contracts signed and editors and authors working on manuscripts

*Next Generation Systematics: Studying evolution and Diversity in an Era of Ubiquitous Genomics*, edited by James Cotton, Joseph Hughes and Peter Olson.

(6) The manuscript for one textbook (contract signed) is in preparation:

*Cladistics: a guide to systematics in biological classification*, by David Williams

(7) Previous Association volumes continued to sell and raise revenue for the SA, though at slower rates. For example, the two most recent pre-hiatus volumes (*Unravelling the algae*, Nov 2007; *The new taxonomy*, April 2008) sold 22 and 10 copies, respectively, between November 2012 and November 2013 (37 and 50; 35 and 71 copies, respectively in the same period for the previous two years).

Income from books is dropping and might become a problem for the Association in future, especially given that we have relatively few new volumes in the pipeline.

(8) CRC increased book prices by ca. 5%

(9) In response to requests to make SA publications meet Open Access (OA) requirements, CUP has agreed to now allow authors to self-archive electronic copies of their published SA Special Volumes chapters in institutional repositories.

CUP are not convinced by our request to provide DOIs in individual printed chapters.

CUP are not convinced by our request to consider making one chapter per book fully OA (to promote OA and promote the books), because they fear it would reduce sales and because the volumes can already be partly browsed online.

(11) Sales breakdown. On average, just under 50% of Special Volumes sales are to the Americas, 10% Asia, the rest mostly Europe. Otherwise, the sales data that CUP can provide are not very detailed. Thus, it is difficult to drill down beyond knowing that volumes were sold to NHBS or Amazon etc.

(12) CUP clarified that royalty rates are 11% for hardback editions of 'conceptual' Special Volumes (9% for taxon- and biome-based volumes) and 15% for eBooks.

## Q&A

It was asked why CUP did not want DOI on individual chapter. David Gower replied that he had asked CUP if they could provide individual SA volume chapters with DOIs to increase discoverability/citability. CUP pointed out that DOIs are already available for each chapter, but only given in the electronic version (DG will ask them to also include them in the printed version). CUP also believe that discoverability/citability of our volumes will improve as they further develop their links with Thomson Reuters Book Citation Index.

Robert Scotland commented that income from SA volumes was probably going to come to an end over the medium to long term and that new forms of income had to be investigated. David Gower mentioned that the RAF assessment criteria had been modified recently and that books may start to get more credit than has previously been

the case.

The President thanked David for his continued work on SA volumes and for developing a very good working relationship with CUP.

## **7. Grants and Awards Secretary's Report**

Mark Cairnie read out the following report:

Bente Klitgård stood down as Grants and Awards Secretary this year after three years running the Systematics Research Fund and I have been acting Grants and Awards Secretary for the Systematics Association since June. Bente has done an excellent job in raising the profile of the scheme worldwide and strengthening the ties between the Linnean Society and the Systematics Association who jointly administer the scheme and I would like to thank her for her efforts.

The funds available last year (ie 2012-2013) were boosted by an increase in the contribution of the Linnean Society from £19K to £25K meaning that, with the £6K contributed by the Systematics Association, £ 31k was available to disburse. I am pleased to report that the same level of funding will be available for the 2013-2014 call. One hundred and fourteen applications were received last year of which 80 met the membership requirement (membership of either the SA or Linn Soc is now a criterion for successful awards). Proposals were reviewed by a panel comprising Alex Monro (RBG, Kew), Wolfgang Wuster (University of Bangor), Michael Kuhlmann (NHM), Sven Burki (RBG, Kew), Bente Klitgård (RBG, Kew) and Mathew Willis (University of Bath) for the Systematics Association, and Pete Olson (NHM), David Rollinson (NHM), Sara Oldfield (BGCI), and Sara Whild (Manchester Metropolitan University) for the Linn. Soc and I would like to thank the referees for their work in helping to ensure the success of the scheme. A total of twenty eight projects were funded (35% of eligible applications) with a wide range of countries represented among the recipients: U.K. (x11), U.S.A. (x7), Portugal (x3), Colombia, Fiji, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Singapore and Sweden.

The 2013-2014 call (deadline January 14th) recently opened and it has been advertised on the Systematics Association and Linnean Society websites and on Taxacom and Evoldir. In a new development this year, from among the awards made, one project will be selected to receive the newly established Sir David Attenborough Prize for Field Work on the basis of the project reports received.

## **Q&A**

There were no questions.

The President thanked Bente and Mark and those involved in reviewing applications.

## **8. Membership Secretary's report**

Jonathan Bennett read out the following report:

1. The membership of the Systematics Association stood at 564 members on 10<sup>th</sup> November. 455 of these are paid up until the end of December.
2. Approximately 55% of members are based in the UK, 17% in the rest of Europe and 28% outside of Europe.
3. 77 new members have joined the Association this year. The majority of new members are based in non-European countries: 12 new members are based in the UK, and a further 21 from the rest of Europe.
4. All membership applications and renewals are now conducted on-line, and members contacted by email which has increased the efficiency with which membership issues are dealt with. Membership renewal reminders are now sent out on a monthly basis, rather than annually, to reflect that members join on-line throughout the year.

5. UK members are being contacted about completing Gift Aid forms, which provides an additional source of income for the Association without increasing membership fees. About a third of UK members have completed these, although only UK taxpayers are eligible
6. The major change for this coming year will be to switch to a predominantly electronic format for the Systematist newsletter, with members opting in for the hard copy, and this will need to be reflected in the database.
7. I would like to thank Rupert Wilson for his extensive assistance with the website and on-line payment system Pete Olson for his continued assistance with the accounts.

## **Q&A**

The Membership Secretary indicated that he would aim to claim gift aid back every 2 years and that he would talk to the Treasurer about this. The President highlighted that membership was positive and that it generally increases just before and during biennials.

The President thanked Jonathan for his work in bringing membership information up to date and making this available electronically.

## **9. Newsletter Editor Report**

Jane Droop read out the following report:

The emphasis of the November edition of The Systematist has been very much on news within the SA, moving away from larger “lead” research-summary articles of the previous editions. Lead articles are the most difficult to obtain; as we cannot publish peer-reviewed papers, many researchers are reluctant to spend time producing summaries of their work. Moving away from these research summary articles has meant that it has been possible to produce two editions this year. More SRF reports have been included, as well as small news items. It is hoped that this will keep the focus of the Newsletter more relevant and that in the future, meeting and talk reports will come out soon after the event. If members see The Systematist as current, they may be encouraged to submit news articles and adverts to it.

A further change is that we are moving towards an electronic version of the Newsletter. The two most recent editions (34 and 35) have both comprised an electronic version, sent to all e-mail addresses in colour, as well as a black and white paper copy. Notice has been put in these editions that in the future, no paper version will be sent out by default, and members should opt-in if they want to continue to receive the hard copy. This will cut printing and sending costs significantly, as well as production time. It is hoped that having a colour electronic version will encourage members to switch. This current issue is the last one that will be sent out as hard copy by default.

## **Q&A**

There were no questions.

The President thanked Jane for her commitment to the Newsletter over the past year and for producing excellent issues.

## **10. Webmaster Report**

Rupert Wilson presented the following report:

In the last year the SA website has received 6,260 unique visitors from 127 countries. Although these figures show a decline from the previous year there has been an 3.43% increase in the number of first-time visitors to the site. Visitors are spending about 10% longer visiting and exploring the site with an increase in the number of pages viewed. There was a 58/42% split between new and returning visitors with 53% of the visits arriving via search engines. The top three most visited areas of the website are the home page, the SRF page and the YSF page.

During 2013 we have continued to make podcasts available for the Sir Julian Huxley and Presidents



Lecture and this initiative seems popular with those members who cannot attend the lectures. The use of social media particularly Twitter to promote events has continued and once again I would like to add my thanks to Ross Mounce for his help in this area.

Looking forward to 2014 work has started on moving the website into a modern content management system which will allow the delivery a much needed refresh to the site later in the spring.

## **Q&A**

There were no questions.

The President thanked Rupert for his hard work over the past year and for keeping the SA web presence up to date with the many new internet developments.

## **11. Election of Officers**

The President thanked council members standing down (M. Vorontsova, Eve Lucas) for their hard work over the past 3 years.

Mark Carine was elected Grants as Awards Secretary (proposed Robert Scotland, Peter Wilkie)

Rupert Wilson re-elected webmaster for a second term (Retires AGM 2016)

Peter Olson was retrospectively elected for second term (Retires AGM 2014)

Peter Wilkie was retrospectively elected for second term (Retires AGM 2015)

Jonathan Bennett was elected Membership Secretary for a further 3 years (Until AGM 2016)

## **12. Election of Council Members**

Louis Ronse Decraene, nominated by Peter Wilkie, seconded Richard Bateman was elected to council for 3 years.

## **13. Any Other Business**

No AOB.

The AGM closed at 5.55pm.