



*The Society for the Study of French History*

**Agenda for SSFH Annual General Meeting,  
University of Warwick  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
5 p.m.**

**Minutes**

The AGM was chaired by David Andress (Portsmouth). Copies of all submitted reports by officers of the Society were circulated or otherwise made available for consultation.

1. Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the last AGM held at 1.45 p.m. on Monday 26 June 2017 in the Main Lecture Room SW105 at the University of Strathclyde were made available.

2. Matters arising & Chair comments

David Andress (DA) introduced the discussions of the committee to the meeting, and also stated the need to engage in a process of constitutional reform. He stated that this would be led by the committee but would invite consultation from the broader membership. Reflection on the constitution shows how practice has evolved and this will be put to committee and general membership in a process which would culminate in a revised constitution being submitted for approval at the next AGM.

3. Committee Membership and Journal Editorial Update

DA mentioned that the committee had approved the creation of Associate Editor posts for the journal to broaden opportunities and these would be advertised widely and openly.

The meeting formally endorsed the new appointments to the Editorial Board of the journal *French History*, as outlined in the journal editors' report.

The meeting noted its great thanks to Malcolm Crook for his valuable long-term service in the society after receiving notice that he would be standing down as a trustee.

4. Equality and Diversity

DA noted that the Society had introduced its new Conference Code of Conduct after discussions with cognate societies and this was part of the Society's broader commitment to ensuring an ethical academic community. DA noted that the Society would continue to review the gender balance of its leadership, committee, and prize panels and would take action to facilitate balance. DA also noted that the Society could think about broadening

the ethnic and geographic diversity of our constituency and that whilst the committee were exploring how to achieve this, input from the membership was warmly received.

#### 5. Suggestions for New Activities

DA noted that our banking arrangements were in the process of being updated, and that this made clear the extent to which the society ought to ensure it continued to spend down its capital in service of its goals. The committee will consider broadening the range of funding and consider how it can address the precarious career phase of Early Career Researchers following the PhD. DA also stated that the committee was considering the relationship between membership fees and conference attendance.

#### 6. Officer Reports

The AGM were provided with printed copies of submitted officer reports (presented in the appendices) and endorsed the reports presented by Joseph Clarke, Stewart McCain, Andrew Smith, David Address, Emily Hooke, Claire Eldridge, and Jessica Wardhaugh.

#### 7. Report on 'Studies in Modern French History' Series at MUP

Máire Cross noted that the series continued to be healthy, noting recent successes in the Gladstone Prize, and also the rapid appearance of paperback versions of recent titles. She encouraged submissions from those at the meeting.

#### 8. Announcement of Ralph Gibson Prize winners

Andrew Smith presented the report from the prize panel that the Ralph Gibson Prize was being awarded to Leonard Hodges (KCL) and Fanny Louvier (Oxford)

#### 9. Conference Matters

Claire Eldridge announced that the theme for the 2020 conference at Leeds would be 'Legacies', and that it would run from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July  
DA mentioned the need to solicit interest in hosting the 2021 conference and invited volunteers.

#### 10. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

The President confirmed that the next AGM will take place at the Society conference at the University of Leeds, 7-9 July 2019. The next committee meeting will take place in January 2019, to coincide with the annual lecture.

The AGM adjourned.