

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
of the
Society of the Friends of the Dorothy Neal White Collection Inc.

Zoom virtual meeting
6:00pm, Tuesday 16 June 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Annual General Meeting 2019 was held on 11 June 2019 at the National Library and was attended by 13 members.

COMMITTEE

All committee members were re-elected unopposed. Corrina Gordon has retained the role of President. Jeff Hunt (Treasurer) and Joan McCracken (Newsletter editor) continue in these positions, with Chantalle Smith taking over the role of Newsletter editor during the year. Other members who continued their roles on the committee were Barbara Robertson, Kathryn Walls, Lynne Jackett and Margaret Hurst. Mary Skarott, in her role as the Research Librarian Children's Literature, also continued to be part of the committee.

At this AGM we sadly have a resignation from Lynne Jackett. We have really appreciated her wonderful energy and input over the last years and will be sorry to see her go. We therefore have vacancies in our committee and would like nominations from anyone willing. The role of Secretary is shared around the committee members; but if anyone is keen it would be nice to have a nomination for this role.

The Committee of the Friends of the Dorothy Neal White Collection has met regularly throughout the year and arranged four general meetings for members.

MEETINGS

Meetings during the year were all held at the National Library. Our thanks go to the National Library for allowing us to hold our events here free of charge, and particularly to Public Engagement staff for setting up the rooms for us and to Security for the part they play.

- 11 June AGM 2019 – Mary Skarott showed us new acquisitions for DNW and NCCollection
- 22 October 2019 Eirlys Hunter - Reality vs Fantasy in Children's Fiction
- 3 December 2019 – Fleur Beale – “The stories behind the stories”
- 9 March 2020 – Cheryl Paget “Arthur Ransome - Story-teller, journalist, sailor, fisherman and suspected spy”

All our speakers gave fascinating insights into their areas of research and drew exceptionally good audiences. In fact, there were times when we ran completely out of glasses and nearly out of food. I take this as a sign of great events. We thank them for giving their time to share their passion for children's literature with the Friends.

PATRON

Our patron, Fleur Beale has attended many of our events, and we and many of her fans, young and old, enjoyed her talk at our Christmas event.

RESEARCH SCHOLAR

We are pleased to have Sarah Gholami, PhD candidate at Victoria University as our Research scholar for 2018/2019. Sarah is continuing work on her PhD research. We will be advertising again this year for the next grant.

PUBLICATIONS

Mary Skarott has finished the NBA School prizes during WWI and we are at almost the point of getting this published. We hope to have it ready for distribution at the next members meeting.

There have been 12 titles published since May 1985 and all, except number 7, have been digitised and are available on Friends website. Copies of some issues are also still available for purchase from the Society. Do get in touch if you are interested in filling gaps in your collection. We do have some potential new titles for the series so if there are any willing volunteers who would like to take up a project to produce another *Notes-Books-Authors* please do get in touch with the committee. To get an idea of what the content of these is please see our website for archived editions.

FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

Thank you to both Jeff Hunt and Chantalle Smith for contributing to the Website and Facebook account. They will provide separate reports.

CONSTITUTION

We have recently revisited our constitution in order to ascertain any rules around holding an AGM online. On reading this we have decided that it might be improved with revision to make it more relevant. A Special General meeting will be set up for this purpose.

NEWSLETTER

We also have our usual newsletter which is being sent by email this year. The newsletter is published to keep members up-to-date with activities and events associated with members and with the National Library's collections, and includes other news connected with children's literature. As always this was a very collaborative effort. Committee members contribute writing, editing, proof-reading and envelope-stuffing skills, as well as there being assistance from the wider Friends group.

MEMBERSHIP

The treasurer continues to encourage members to renew their subscriptions - or to let us know if they no longer want to belong to the Society. We ended the 2019-2020 financial year with 33 financial members of the Friends, with 15 members already paid up for this coming year. We encourage current members to bring a friend or friends to events, as some people may not be aware of the society and our activities. While we still circulate the newsletter and notices to some libraries and other organisations that support children's literature, we continue to refine our membership and mailing lists.

CONCLUSION

Thank you to all members of the Society for your continuing interest in the children's literature collections of the National Library. We really enjoy catching up with those of you who are able to attend the meetings that are organised throughout the year. Once again, grateful thanks are also due to all the Committee members for their continuing energy and commitment, their catering skills, and their ongoing support for the Research Librarian and the Collection.

As always, we welcome suggestions of topics for events, displays, publications, or research using the DNW Collection and the Library's other children's literature collections.

Corrina Gordon
President

16 June 2020