

Minutes of the Barnes Literary Society AGM held on 18th November 2025 at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes, SW13 9HE.

Draft

Present: Sue Pandit (SP), Kathy Owles (KO), Kathy Kock (KK), C Elaine Redler (ER), Fina Mason (FM) Louise Carr (LC) Belinda Darnton (BD) Philippa McEwan (PM) Claudia Catelin (CC) and in excess of 50 society members.

1. Introduction by the Chair

SP welcomed everybody to the AGM and advised that the Agenda, AGM and Accounts had been available for everyone to see on the website for over 2 weeks.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 12th Nov 2024.

There were no matters arising.

The resolution to approve the minutes was proposed by Jo Weinburger and seconded by Eleanor Davidson and approved by a show of hands.

4. Chairs Report

SP referred members to the detailed report online and said she would just highlight a few points:

SP introduced the three new Trustees - Belinda Darnton (BD) Philippa McEwan (PM) Claudia Catelin (CC) and gave a very brief bio of each.

We have enhanced the quality of the AV at our author events with extra technical support. We held a successful summer party in June.

SP thanked the patrons for their support and welcomed Gyles Brandreth as our newest patron as well as the hardworking trustees and all the institutions around Barnes and Richmond who support the BLS:

- Sarah Arthur for managing our website for promoting us in The Bugle
- St Mary's Church
- Venetia and the Barnes Bookshop
- Mark Thornton who provides AV support
- All the shops that display BLS promotional posters.

Commenting briefly on the accounts, SP said that the BLS delivered a surplus before grants of £7,869. After making donations of £5,500 we have a net surplus of £2,369. Given our strong reserves we will increase our grant donations to £7500 a year. The annual report lists the grant recipients. We have had a significant increase in grants for 2025/26, with 16 applications received so far.

No questions arose on either the annual report or the accounts.

5. Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25

The resolution to approve the minutes was proposed by Jo Weinburger and seconded by Helen Black and approved by a show of hands.

6.Approval of the new class of Membership for 2026/27

The resolution to approve the introduction of the new Member plus One subscription costing £80 from the beginning of next season which starts in September 2026 was proposed by Margaret Fruchter and seconded by Clare Boyling and approved by a show of hands.

7.Election of Trustees

SP outlined that all seven Trustees stand for re-election and the three new Trustees must be elected. All have been proposed and seconded already as outlined below.

The resolution to elect the Trustees en-bloc as set out below was proposed by Stephen Mindel and seconded by Liz Hughes and approved by a show of hands.

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chair.	Sue Pandit	Belinda Darnton	Asha Pandit
Secretary & Publicity	C Elaine Redler	Liz Hughes	Claudia Catelin
Treasurer.	Kathy Kock	Sue Pandit	Philippa McEwan
Vice Chair/ Membership.	Kathy Owles	Fina Mason	Rita Golden
Authors	Fina Mason	Claudia Catelin	Sue Pandit
Hospitality	Louise Carr	Kathy Owles	Fenella Deards
Grants	Philippa McEwan	Kathy Kock	Nick Carr
Events	Belinda Darnton	Nick Carr	Sheila Preece
Marketing	Claudia Catelin	Sue Abrines	Sue Pandit

8 Any other business

As no AOB was raised SP thanked all attendees on behalf of the Committee for coming to the AGM.

CER

19th November 2025