

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 14th 2021 15.30 (virtual)

1. Introduction and welcome Dr Lynda Partridge (Chair)

2. Address from Professor Nigel Brown (Chair of College of Individual Members). Prof Brown gave an overview of current RSB policy and developments.

- the Branches Group has now been set up and replaces the Branches Working Group – each Branch can send a representative. (Lynda Partridge will represent Yorkshire, with Graham Bonwick acting as “back-up”, as discussed in a previous Committee Meeting.)
- due to COVID, RSB staff were working from home last year, organising online meetings etc. 6 weeks’ notice is still required to advertise events. According to RSB policy, face-to-face meetings (outdoors) were allowable from 1st October, but indoor meetings are postponed until the start of 2022 at the earliest (subject to COVID case numbers).
- a new 3 year plan is being developed by RSB for 2022-2025
- RSB is keen to recruit more women as Fellows – members are invited to assist with this.
- the Chartered Biology designation has changed and will now require CPD, bringing it in line with Chartered Chemists and Physicists. Lynda Partridge queried this on behalf of a retired member of Branch, but was told this still applies. Prof Brown pointed out that CPD points can be awarded for attending meetings online etc.: further information is on the RSB website.
- finalised arrangements for the RSB 5 – 19 curriculum are now on the RSB website.
- a course on Outreach/Engagement is available (23-26th November), details on the RSB website.
- RSB continues to be involved in important Government issues including COP26 and science funding.

3. Apologies: Ben Stevenson (Secretary), Emma Jones, Andrew Holding, Emma Jennings, Paul Smith

3. Review of committee roles

Chair (Lynda Partridge), **Vice-chair** (Val Randall), **Secretary** (Ben Stevenson), **Treasurer** (Graham Bonwick), **Social Media Officer** (Danae Dodge), **Archivist + CPD** (Chris Collins).

Social Media Officer (Danae) – will be stepping down as she’s moving next year. She will be greatly missed and the Committee thanked her for the excellent job she has done for the Branch.

Beth Webb has been assisting Danae for some time now and following discussions in Committee meetings it was suggested that Beth takes over from Danae.

Beth Webb was proposed to replace **Danae Dodge** as Social Media Officer and was duly elected during the AGM. Danae will be supporting her temporarily.

4. Election of new committee members

No new members were elected last year, but 6 were elected the previous year.

5. Chair's Report

Lynda Partridge reported that the Branch now has 802 members in Yorkshire. There were 5 virtual committee meetings since last AGM, all well-attended with good discussions. It's easier for people to attend virtually, although we hope to have some "blended" meetings next year, as it's good to meet face-to-face sometimes.

Minutes for the Committee Meetings are available to members on the RSB website through My Society.

6. Treasurer's Report

Graham Bonwick reported that a surplus from 2019-20 of £427.90 had not been carried forward. A budget of £1000 for 2020-21 was also returned as there were no live meetings or expenditure. A budget of £1000 for 2021-22 (based on 2019-20) has been submitted, assuming that there will be at least one live event. A surplus of £105 is expected.

In response to a question from Val Randall, Graham confirmed that gifts for contributors to events could be up to a value of £10, or £50 for events with more than 100 participants.

7. Events Report

The following successful virtual events were held last year:

- a. 20th March: Frontiers of Science V (joint RSB, RSC, Astrophysics). Organised by Sohan Jeeta.
- b. 28th April: Joint RSC/RSB seminar – Dr Sarah Staniland (University of Sheffield) "Naturally nano – exploiting bacteria for nanotechnology and medicine." postponed from live event York 2020. Organised by Lynda Partridge, report available on RSB website.
- c. 17th June: Seminar. Viktoria McDonald Albatrox Consulting Ltd "Early phase drug development." Organised by Chris Collins.
- d. 6th September: Seminar. Dr Deborah Dawson and Dr Douglas Ross Uni Sheffield "The return of otters to the Peak District." Organised by Lynda Partridge.
- e. 11th October "Meet the Committee". Organised by Danae Dodge, report available on RSB website.
- f. 13th November, Autumn Symposium "Bats: Friend or Foe?" Val Randall

8. Future Events

The following events have been proposed so far:

- a) Frontiers of Science VI – 12th March (Leeds/virtual?)
- b) Joint RSC/RSB seminar 27th April Professor Peter Sadler (University of Warwick) "The Elements of Life and Medicines". Organised by RSC and currently planned to be live at the University of York, but the organisers also hope make it available to those who can't attend physically.
- c) Summer outing. Harlowe Carr? tbc
- d) Autumn Symposium 2022 – ideas for a theme welcome! (Food sustainability has been suggested).

Postponed Events:

Pioneers of Biology event (celebrating 10 years of RSB and the achievements of Lady Mary Wortely Montagu at Wentworth Castle, postponed from July 2020). Staff at Wentworth Castle still keen to hold this in the future, but yet to have confirmation from RSB.

"Big Biology day" Wilberforce 6th Form College, Hull (Martin Walker organiser). Postponed from January 2022.

9. Social Media Update

Danae is looking for a volunteer from within the Committee to take over the social media support role and will be sending out a "Cheat Sheet" guide for those of us who are less familiar with social media. She will also host a workshop for those on the Committee who are interested.

Beth gave us an update on social media analytics. The Branch now has 200 followers on Instagram and the "Meet the Committee" event promoted good engagement, as has a Biology "Word of the Week" idea. Twitter is the best platform and the Branch now has 968 followers.

10. AOB

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 17.15 on the 8th December, virtually.

Danae introduced us to the Ecological Continuity Trust, a small charity that she works for and which is now a supporting organisational member of the RSB. The Trust supports long-term (> 6 years) ecological field experiments. It has core-funding from the British Ecological Society and is able to offer small grant (~£2-3000) for travel, maintenance and small projects as well as providing opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange. There are 36 such long-term experiments across the UK and it is hoped that they will be able to link with regional RSB Branches for talks, field trips etc. Further information is available on the website: [ECOLOGICAL CONTINUITY TRUST](#)