

Scottish Poetry Library

SPL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2020/21)

11am on 22 February 2022

OUTCOMES

Friends in attendance: Jane Aaronson, Patrick Corbett, Claudia Daventry, Laura Fyfe, Gordon Munro, James Ripley, Charlie Roy, David Rutherford, Chris Wardhaugh

1. The SPL's Co-Chair Charlie Roy opened the meeting and welcomed attendees in person and online. Apologies were recorded for Gordon McFarlane.
2. Vote: **to approve the minute of last year's meeting.**
22 for / none against
3. Vote: **to accept the annual accounts**
22 for / none against
4. Vote: **to agree to the reappointment of our auditor**
21 for / none against
5. Vote: **to re-elect members to the Board**
Patrick Corbett: 21 for/ none against
James Ripley: 21 for/ none against
6. Reflections on the year were presented by Co-Chair Gordon Munro and Director Asif Khan. These were included as reports in the AGM papers.

Gordon thanked the Board Members who stepped down at the previous AGM: Jane Rider, Nuala Watt and Stuart Paterson. Gordon said that as well as being an exceptional year, it was also one that was transformative for the SPL, supported by two new Board members: Claudia Daventry and Chris Wardhaugh. Projects such as the Long Covid Writers Group demonstrated the innovative ways in which the organisation was reaching out. The SPL was the first library service to open to the public in Edinburgh in August 2020.

Asif spoke about creative and proactive ways in which the library staff team had delivered activities remotely and in-person. The visit of the First Minister to announce the new national Makar -the FM's first non-health related public engagement - was testimony to the work that the SPL was doing. The SPL had supported staff to work from home with the provision of office items and technology. Initially, half of the staff team had been furloughed through the Job Retention Scheme. We introduced free postal loans, and plan to keep this as a core offer due to its popularity and effectiveness in reaching out to borrowers across Scotland. Demand for taking part in our online reading groups and writing activity was also high, and we plan to maintain a hybrid offer whenever possible, for

example live-streaming and recording events. Our Health and Wellbeing strand included a new pocket poetry book for graduating nurses and midwives and online seminars delivered by Lapidus. We also introduced and supported the Poetry Ambassadors initiative, the City Makars Network and are launching a young makars mentoring scheme. We will continue to commission new films and digital resources for schools. We welcome the opportunity to support the national Makar's programme of engagement with an emphasis on the environment and the natural world, looking ahead to COP26 in Glasgow. The senior management team would like to thank the Board for their pastoral support to the staff during the pandemic.

7. Charlie Roy closed the meeting by thanking the SPL Board, staff and volunteers for their contributions to the successful ongoing delivery of library services and activities during the pandemic. Jane Aaronson commented that she had valued the opportunity to participate in the Nothing But the Poem sessions. Patrick Corbett announced that The School of Poets would be returning to in-person activity in the library from March 2022.