



DEALEY PLAZA UK

Website: <http://dealeyplazauk.org.uk/>

Treasurer:

Allan Johnson
Highfield Cottage
1A Strickland Manor Hill
Yoxford, Saxmundham
Suffolk IP17 3JA

Chairman

John Wassell
9 Cranbourne Drive
Harpenden
Herts. AL5 1RJ

Secretary:

Stuart Galloway
8 The Avenue
Sandy
Beds. SG19 1ER

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 23rd January 2016 at The Flying Horse - Finsbury, London 1:30 P.M.

Members present: - John Wassell, Allan Johnson, Stuart Galloway, Bill Beadle, Mike Dworetzky, Bart Kamp, Brian Kelshaw, Tony Basing, David Cuthbertson

1. Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence had been received from: **Chris Scally, Derek Kerr, Russell Kent, David Ward, Bernard Wilds, Richard Comerford, Mark Rowe, Alaric Rosman, Barry Keane, Ian Griggs, Matthew Smith, Richard Lee-Van Den Daele.** Many of these members passed on their best wishes to the meeting.

2. Chairman's Welcome

John Wassell opened the meeting by welcoming the 9 persons present and thanking them for coming. 2015 had been a positive year with some very successful mini-seminars both in London and Bradford as well as Canterbury, of course. He also thanked the committee for the work that they had undertaken. John commented on the fact that it was a pity such a small number of members had been in attendance at the Kennedy memorial on 22nd November – perhaps this was because the event was on a Sunday. He wished the Group well for the forthcoming year.

3. Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting held on 17th January 2015

The minutes of the previous AGM had been copied to all members in order to save review time at the meeting. Para. 3 was amended to read “18th AGM” and not “17th AGM”

The minutes were adopted as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed: Mike Dworetzky – Seconded: Tony Basing, and agreed by members present.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Stuart had written to the UK & USA membership pointing out the decision regarding the payment of subscriptions for the forthcoming year.

5. Secretary's Report

Stuart welcomed the 9 members present and echoed John Wassell's feeling that 2015 had been a successful year for the Group. Sincere thanks go to John for all the work he undertook in collecting, transporting, and arranging for the auction of the Irving collection of books. This raised over £600 for the Group. Thanks also to the rest of the Committee, especially Allan Johnson, our Treasurer, who has maintained our financial records so competently, and to Peter Antill and Mark Rowe who acted as our membership secretaries.

The Journal has gone from strength to strength. Two superb issues in excellent colour and superbly edited by James Gordon and Richard Lee-Van Den Daele. Our thanks go to both of them for all their efforts. Our Journal is now a world-class publication. Three digital Journals had also been produced in PDF form, which have been made widely available to members and others, amongst others, many of Alaric Rosman's and Chris Scally's papers have been made available in this format.

The committee had not met formally but much work had been carried out by telephone and e-mail. However, it would have been nice to sit down as a group on at least one occasion. Four Mini-Seminars had been held – three in London and a very successful one attended by 15 persons in Bradford. The sessions proved very popular indeed and the following is a list of some of the subjects discussed:

- *Someone would have talked – led by Allan Johnson*
- *What are your views on the Assassination? – Led by Barry Keane*
- *Prayer Man – led by Bart Kamp*
- *Visit to the JFK memorial in London on 22nd November*

- *The Case against Lyndon Baines Johnson (Bradford) – Matthew Smith*
- *The Case against James Jesus Angleton (Bradford) – Matthew Smith*
- *Jack Ruby, Kingpin or a Nobody? (Bradford)*
- *Ferrie & Oswald (Bradford)*
- *Purchase of Rifle & Handgun – The Paper Trails & Harry Holmes (Bradford)*
- *Oswald's movements and Capture after the Assassination – Tippit Slaying*

The Canterbury Seminar in April had again been very well received and thanks go to all who contributed towards making it such a success. Some superb papers were presented by several of our members as well as three very interesting talks by telephone, one by Lamar Waldron, and the two by Larry Hancock.

- *The Mystery of Little Oswald – Alaric Rosman*
- *American Miscarriage – Lee Harvey Oswald – Bill Beadle*
- *Watergate: Nixon, the Mafia & the CIA – Lamar Waldron*
- *New Research into the Bay of Pigs – Larry Hancock*
- *Thomas Hale Boggs - Jean Shields*
- *In search of the Nix Film – Chris Scally*
- *Fingerprints of Intelligence: Walker, Tippit, & Oswald - Paul Brown*
- *Captain William R Westbrook – Ian Griggs*
- *John Martino – Larry Hancock*

Thanks also go to Mike Dworetzky who acted as our very able Auctioneer and to Isobel Dworetzky who sourced the excellent Sunday buffet and to Allan Johnson who kept track of all the money. Meanwhile we look forward to 2016 and what is hoped will be another successful year for the Group.

6. Treasurer's Report

Allan tabled copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2015 – a copy is attached to these minutes.

The year had begun with £1567 in the bank and had ended with £2114, a surplus of £547, mainly due to the auction and sale of the Irving Collection (£613). John Wassell had expertly managed the sale of some of the books outside the auction.

It would have been impossible to auction them all because of time constraints.

£195.70 was received from book royalties – the meeting was reminded that the authors have agreed to donate all proceeds to DPUK. Thanks go to Matthew Smith for having suggested raffling two of his books at Bradford. Proceeds amounted to £27.

Printing costs amounted to £455 for each issue of the Journal (£910 total), which was felt reasonable because of the superb colour reproduction and the quality of paper used. A suggestion was made that we should advertise the spare copies of each issue through the website, Facebook etc., and sell through PayPal or through members who go to Dallas.

Income from Canterbury almost exactly equalled expenditure. UK Subscriptions had amounted to £784; down from £898 in 2014, it is disappointing that quite a few people did not renew their membership. Postage seems to go up every year distribution costs of the Journal amounted to £262. The cost of posting Journals to the USA is significant.

The number of dollars held by Mark Rowe has not been included in the notes.

It was pointed out by David Cuthbertson that input and expenditure sums for the Bradford event, although they would have cancelled each other out, had not been included in the accounts – Canterbury figures are. This was felt a valid point and Allan agreed to include such data in future reports.

Action: Allan Johnson

Proposed by Brian Kershaw that the accounts be adopted and seconded by Tony Basing. Agreed by all.

NB. The accounts remain in a satisfactory state, although currently the cost of producing and posting the Journals is not covered by subscriptions. However, other income will supplement the overall receipts so it was agreed that, as things stand, an increase in the cost of membership would not be necessary in 2017.

All to note

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Peter Antill had provided a useful report regarding membership, which Allan Johnson presented to the meeting. The report showed that the total UK membership in 2015 stood at 55 (including 4 life members) somewhat down on the previous year's figure of 60. Quite a few people (11 in total) failed to re-join but we also had several new members who have signed up. The number of subscription payments by bank transfer continues to increase.

The graph within the report indicates that this was the first drop in membership since 2010, although the actual total still exceeds all years except 2014.

The subject of life-members in the USA was raised. It would seem there is some misapprehension that appointments have been made which, however, have never been agreed, let alone discussed, by the committee. Should we publish a list of life-members on the website? (Only if there was a particularly valid reason to do so.) It was felt that too many life-members have already been appointed for no particularly adequate reason. The minimum qualification would be somebody who has consistently, over a significant period of time, supported the Group in some exceptional way. It would be very positive if further members could be recruited in 2016.

8. The Dealey Plaza Echo

The Dealey Plaza Echo has gone from strength to strength since the magazine was first published in the 1990's. It has become a world-class publication thanks to our editors and contributors. It was agreed that we would continue to try and produce two issues per year. David Cuthbertson raised the point that some members may not be able to download the digital versions of the Journal on some digital devices although the documents are in pdf format. However, he felt that the printed copies alone are worth the cost of membership. The latest copy of Adobe reader should be downloaded onto computers accessing the files. Bart Kamp raised the subject of distributing and selling spare copies of the Journal issues to other people/organisations. It could even be arranged for a charge to be levied for the digital copies to be downloaded by non-members. A PayPal account, connected to the Group current account, would be useful in this respect and for other transactions within the Group. A small charge is levied on the transactions which would be payable by DPUK. Advertise Journal issues both digital and hard copy, along with details of contents of each, on the website.

Link with other websites such as the Education Forum and Facebook

This would make the Journals available to a significantly wider audience and would make money for the Group. Bart Kamp kindly agreed to investigate further and talk to Bernard Wilds and James Gordon as necessary.

Action: Bart Kamp

A further venue where sale of spare copies of Journals could be made is in Dallas at November conferences if attendees would take them out. (As was done with the DPUK book). A further point was raised concerning issues sent to the Mary Ferrell website at the end of one year. The data is an important source of research by the wider community. Possibly charge for downloads from the website. We would need to let Rex Bradford know arrangements.

David raised the point of releasing videos of Canterbury and other meetings on U-Tube etc. to maximise exposure. Bart emphasised the use of Facebook and Twitter (Bart has already set up a successful Twitter account) as well as the Education Forum in order to connect to a much wider audience and to gain members rather than lose them.

Brian has also set up a Facebook account (as Alex Hidell) for communicating with others on the subject of JFK (only!). 500 members have joined his group. Set up a DPUK Facebook group for potential new members.

Tony proposed that any suggestions for change and improvement should be set down as a formal proposal giving all the steps required for implementation along with any implications. It would be important for all to be aware of actions to be taken and to obtain some sort of consensus.

9. Mini-Seminars: suggested venues and subjects

These continue to be popular in London and it is proposed to hold a further one somewhere in the Midlands. Meeting space at the venue selected will be carefully considered. Maybe consider a further meeting at York assuming a suitable venue can be found. (The York Brewery room was too small). Accessibility is important as well as cost of travel. Membership of the Group is unfortunately very thinly, but widely spread. The same 20% to 25% of members seem to attend meetings, regardless of venue.

Outstanding subjects for possible discussion include: -

1. Jim Garrison & New Orleans
2. JFK, Nixon, & Cuba
3. Oswald Look-alikes
4. General Walker & The Texas Oilmen
5. No shots fired from the 6th Floor window

Bart suggested that we turn the events into 3 or 4 sessions a year and charge others to come along to hear us debate the issues. David suggested joining with other groups who may have an interest in the JFK case and put on a larger event (e.g. the Whitechapel Society). Perhaps talk to the History department in the local university where an event is to be held. Tony

pointed out that it would be important to include a “Primer” or “Generic” discussion where outside groups/universities are involved. Bart would consider setting up a system whereby non-members could easily get to know of events and sign up to attend. Sounds an excellent idea if the subject matter is relevant for a potential beginner.

10. The Group’s Website

Members are encouraged to use the website to find out the latest information and to explore some of the excellent set of articles that have been posted there along with some very useful links to other sites of interest, Thanks to Bernard for maintaining the site for us. Several members have joined the Group over the past year or so through this facility.

There is a Blog section on the website. There are a huge number of people out there using social media – Twitter and Facebook, especially the younger generation. There are potentially a large number of new members out there if communication channels were to be improved. The links to Twitter and Facebook could be added to the website. Bart kindly agrees to investigate.

The possibility of accessing the Journal through the website will also be investigated.

Action: Bart Kamp

11. Election of Management Committee.

It was declared that all the existing officers were willing to stand again for election. It was therefore proposed by Bill Beadle, that each person be re-elected to the post that they held last year This was agreed by all present.

The 2016 Committee therefore comprises the following members: -

Chairman:	John Wassell	UK Membership Secretary:	Peter Antill
Vice-Chairman:	Barry Keane	US Membership Secretary:	Mark Rowe
Hon. Secretary:	Stuart Galloway	Journal Editor:	James Gordon
Hon. Treasurer:	Allan Johnson	President & Committee Member:	Ian Griggs
Committee Member:	Bill Beadle	Committee Member:	Russ Ford

12. Update on Arrangements for the Canterbury Seminar – 23rd/24th April 2016

So far about 15 people have said that they would like to attend – hopefully numbers will increase over the coming few weeks. The cost of booking the Canterbury Christchurch University facilities will come to £30 per delegate, including VAT, and is based on a minimum of 30 delegates. Total cost including tea/coffee, Saturday dinner, and Sunday buffet will probably be in the order of £70. (No increase on previous year). The Dinner will be held, as in the past few years, at The Pilgrims Hotel. Pinocchio’s has been booked for the Friday evening. Should we be considering use of Skype or equivalent again? Telephone communication to the US has worked well for several years now.

Two names were mentioned as possible presenters – Sherri Fiester and John Newman. It was also pointed out that Sherri is also in contact with other researchers and would be willing to contact them on our behalf. Bart suggested Larry Sneed.

Stuart asked if somebody would be prepared to film the Canterbury seminar so that the proceedings can be captured.

Bart asked about holding a formal seminar during November at the time of the anniversary.

Stuart pointed out that as long as we continue to communicate effectively on the subject, if anybody else would like to organise a conference that would be great.

13. Date of the Next AGM

This was set for Saturday 21st January 2017 at 1.30 P.M. in The Flying Horse – Finsbury, London

The meeting was declared closed at 3.40 P.M.

Signed:

Date:.....

(Chairman)

DEALEY PLAZA UK

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 12 MONTHS TO 31/12/2015

RECEIPTS	MEMBERS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Subscriptions @ £18.00	35	630.00	Printing Costs ****	910.00
Subscriptions @ £10.00	15	150.00	Postage Stationery & other Distribution Costs	261.96
Subscriptions Part Year	1	4.00	Membership Secretary Expenses	13.89
US Subscriptions Banked	*	0.00	Website Costs	36.00
Donations		44.00		
Canterbury Conference Receipts		2067.00	Canterbury Conference Expenditure	1853.39
Auction Proceeds Canterbury (Net)		309.85		
Bradford Auction		27.00		
DPUK Book Royalties		195.70		
Sale of Irving Collection	**	411.00		
TOTAL RECEIPTS		3622.05	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3075.24
			SURPLUS FOR PERIOD	546.81
TOTAL		3622.05	TOTAL	3622.05
BALANCE AT BARCLAYS 01/01/2015		1566.97		
ADD SURPLUS FOR PERIOD AS ABOVE		546.81		
BALANCE AT BARCLAYS 31/12/2014	***	2113.79		

* As with previous years the above accounts only show items passing through the UK Bank account. As at 31st December 2014 DPUK was also holding the sum of \$285.00 in respect of US Subscriptions, which are not included in the above figures.

** This figure relates to books sold directly to members. A number of books from the Irving collection were auctioned at Canterbury and are included in that figure above. In total sales of the 'Irving collection raised £613.00 for the group.

*** Actual balance at Barclays on 31/12/2015 £2159.78
 Less: Subscriptions re 2016: £ 46.00
 Adjusted balance a Barclays on 31/12/2015 £2113.78

**** Two editions of the Echo were issued in 2014