

35. Managing Trustees of the New Room Bristol (Wesley's Chapel) and 4-5 Charles Street, Bristol

Contact Name and Details	Jenny Carpenter, Secretary to the Trustees Email: Jennyc106@btinternet.com
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1. The year 2014 marked the 275th anniversary of the New Room and of the first Methodist open-air preaching. Those anniversaries were matched by progress in increasing our capacity to tell the story of the Wesleys and Bristol's place in early Methodism in an appealing and professional manner.
2. After the Wesley Day celebrations and associated Flower Festival, there was intense activity to ensure that all the necessary research and documentation was in place to submit our Round 2 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application. Planning permission and listed building consent were obtained in September and the HLF documentation was submitted in October. At the end of January we received the welcome news that we had been awarded a £2.6 million HLF grant. With the Bristol District grant of £1.4m and more modest sums from trust bodies and individuals, this will enable us to start building the Horsefair Project in October 2015. David Worthington, the Manager, as the 'Client Representative' will be the main contact point for many of the different people that will be involved in the construction of the new building.
3. The three-storey building will feature a shop and café, kitchen and WC facilities, a multi-media lecture room for up to 60 people, an extensive resource library on Methodist history, an archive and offices. A lift and a high-level link will enable easy access to the upper floor of the existing Grade I building which will be upgraded as a themed museum.
4. The New Room seeks to be a place of welcome all year round: we receive visitors from near and far and from very diverse backgrounds, and many tell us that they appreciate our presence in the heart of the city. Visitor numbers for 2014 were 25,491; the highest number since 2011. The number of group visits has also increased this year and we have welcomed tours from an even greater number of nations; visits from more local circuit and district church groups are also up. Many write in the book provided or tell stewards of the positive results of their visit. Attendance at the weekly Friday lunch-time Communion services has been encouraging; staff and stewards are engaged in some form of pastoral ministry with our visitors on a daily basis.
5. Major activities that contributed to the high visitor numbers included the hosting of the Tony Benn Memorial Event, the Jeremy Deller talk (that was part of the Bristol Festival of Ideas), the Flower Festival (celebrating the 275th anniversary of the New Room), the Thomas Coke exhibition (that was transferred from Brecon) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation Drone Quilt. From October to mid-December Cards for Good Causes / Charity Christmas Cards were on sale in the Meeting Room, and during Advent we hosted "Christmas in the Courtyard" and two "Carols by Candlelight" services. Educational outreach is a vital part of our work, and Mandy Briggs has made excellent links with schools, uniformed organisations and University of the West of England. She is compiling attractive teaching packs.
6. Our valued volunteers are essential to the operation of the New Room. In addition to the many hours offered as stewards, volunteers are involved in the shop, in the library and in entering data on the MODES archive database. All this is vital background work as we move forward with the Horsefair Project. To coordinate the development of the library, archives and artefacts, we will be appointing a Collections Manager on a fixed-term contract in 2016.

7. During the year Rachel Newton resigned as a Managing Trustee. Her theatre skills, work on the furnishing of Charles Wesley's House and involvement with school visits have been particularly valuable. James Gibbs is ceasing to serve as a Trustee, but will still be on the Stewards' rota and make use of his many Bristol contacts to promote the New Room. The Revd C Norman Wallwork is also stepping down as a Trustee. His encyclopaedic knowledge of both liturgical practice and Methodist history has enlightened many a gathering.
8. We hope to keep the New Room open during normal visiting hours during the construction period, though, inevitably, our routine will be disrupted. High expectations have been placed upon us by our two main funders (the HLF and the Methodist Church) and there are challenging targets to be reached. Engagement with 'new and hard-to-reach' groups remains a cornerstone of the Horsefair Project and there is an extensive list of activities to be delivered. The continuing interest and prayerful support of Methodist people worldwide has never been so strongly needed!

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014

INCOMING RESOURCES		RESOURCES EXPENDED	
Grants, Donations and Tax recovered	£75,670	Salaries, Tax, etc.	£58,738
Investment Income and Interest	£6,366	Repairs and Maintenance	£54,182
Tours and other fund raising	£14,617	Utilities and Insurance	£16,400
Shop sales	£16,620	Shop costs	£6,703
Charles St rent and New Room hire	£29,429	Administration	£4,015
From Bristol District	£44,232	Horsefair Project Costs	£71,482
From Heritage Lottery Fund	£50,580	New Room Museum development	£8,555
Other Income	£3,486	Other Expenditure	£13,125
	TOTAL > £241,000		TOTAL > £233,200

At the year end the breakdown of the Trust's total funds of £433,874 is as follows :

Unrestricted Funds and Trusts	£54,658
Restricted Funds and Trusts	£261,735
Permanent Endowments	£117,481

***RESOLUTIONS

35/1. The Conference adopted the Report.

35/2. In accordance with Standing Order 220, the Conference appointed the following as the Managing Trustees of the New Room for 2015-16:

The Revd A Ward Jones (Chair); The Revd Jonathan Pye (Bristol District Chair, ex officio); The Revd David Alderman (Superintendent of Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit, ex officio); Mr Gary Best (Warden) ex officio; Ms Jane Allin; Mr T David Bainbridge; Mrs Clare Campion-Smith; Mrs Jennifer Carpenter (Hon Sec); Mr Philip Carter (Musical Director); Mr Michael M Culshaw (Deputy Warden); Mr Stephen Duckworth; Mrs Constance Gould; Mr. Martin R Hunt; Mrs Linda Jones; Mr Peter Knowles (Hon. Treasurer); The Revd Jongsin Lee; The Revd Andrew Pratt; Mr Michael Rose; Mrs Aroona Smith; The Revd David G Weeks (Hon Chaplain); Mr Robert Wood.

Reasoned Statements:

The Revd A Ward Jones has played a key part in the negotiations over the Horsefair Project. The Trustees wish him to continue to chair the Trust for a further three-year period to cover its construction and development.

The Revd Jonathan Pye, is the incoming Chair of the Bristol District.

The Revd David Alderman, as the incoming Superintendent of the Circuit in which the New Room is located.

Mrs Linda Jones brings museum and curating skills which will be invaluable in this phase of the New Room's development. For 17 years she worked at the Heritage Vaults Museum at Bath Abbey where she supervised the successful application for registered museum status and curated several exhibitions. Currently she is involved in digitising the New Room's accession records, having trained on the MODES course.

The Revd Andrew Pratt is sitting down after 11 years as a tutor and, latterly, as Acting Principal at Hartley Victoria College. He is a non-executive director of Stainer & Bell Ltd, publishers, a Trustee and Chairperson-elect of the Pratt Green Trust and he edits the *Bulletin of the Hymn Society of Great Britain*.

Mrs Aroona Smith was born in Pakistan but has lived in England from the age of eight. She has been a member of Totterdown Methodist Church for 40 years where she is currently a Steward. She brings wide experience of management, fund raising and multicultural training. In 2005 she was made Deputy Lieutenant for the City and County of Bristol.