

# Annual General Meeting 2015

The 91st Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 3pm on Saturday 11th July 2015 in the Birkbeck Hall at The Great Hospital, Norwich by kind permission of the Master, Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt. In light of the death in April of the President, The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Leicester, the meeting was chaired by the Chairman, Giles Quarme, and attended by 97 people. It was a pleasant Summer afternoon.

The meeting was preceded by an optional tour, led by Dr Nicholas Groves, of a number of churches owned by the Norfolk Churches Trust.

The Chairman began proceedings by remembering Lord Leicester and in particular his roles with the AMS, the Historic Houses Association and English Heritage.

After receipt of apologies for absence (from 29 members, including Professor R. W. Brunskill) and the signing by the Chairman of the Minutes of the 2014 AGM (previously published in Volume 59 of the *Transactions* for 2015), the Secretary, Mr Matthew Saunders, summarised the events of the year. In particular he offered sincere appreciation of the dedication of the late Editor, Dr Richard Morris, who had been working on the *Transactions* until a few days before his death in January. He had been responsible for a number of substantial volumes with papers on subjects as diverse as Birmingham Town Hall, the buildings of the deer hunt and the Catholic chapels of Norwich. Trustees had been delighted when Dr John Bold had agreed to take over as Editor, especially as he brought the experience gained when he last held the post in the late 1990s. The Secretary warmly thanked his colleagues, Alison Du Cane (who had expressed her wish to retire at the end of the year) and Lucie Carayon for their hard work and dedication. There had been an inadvertent threat in the course of the year to the Society's status as a mandatory consultee with a formal Government suggestion that only schemes of total demolition should be referred to the National Amenity Societies. This would have reduced the number of referrals, which currently embrace everything involving demolition, in whole or part, from 4,000 to a few hundred. The proposal had been withdrawn after a campaign against it, in which the AMS had played a critical role. Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2014 were presented by the Society's Treasurer, Mr Simon Barnes and approved *nem.con* by the Meeting. He also nominated Messrs McClintocks as the Society's auditors and their re-election was confirmed *nem.con*.

The Meeting then proceeded to the elections. A list of those standing had been issued as part of the AGM Notice and brief biographies had been available on request during the preceding month and were provided for the meeting. All Officers and Trustees standing had been proposed and seconded before 31st March in accordance with the Constitution. The Chairman then put the election of Officers and Members of Council to the meeting in two separate blocs. They were all elected *nem.con*.

After the closure of formal business, there was an address on the Hospital by the Chief Guide, Rod Andrews and recollections on his involvement at the site by Anthony Rossi. The day was rounded off by tea and guided tours of the building.

GILES QUARME, R.I.B.A.  
CHAIRMAN