

THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2026 at 6:00pm at Temple Bowling Club

The meeting began at 6:15pm.

The Chair, Dr Rebecca Tee, welcomed everyone to the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Herne Hill Society, with a special welcome to new members. There were 53 people at the AGM, many of whom stayed for the talk on “Henry Doulton’s Lady Artists” given by Dr Jane Jordan

A picture was shown of the wreath laid on Remembrance Sunday 9 November 2025 at Herne Hill Station.

Apologies were received from: Martyn Hall, Nelly Tee, Pat Roberts, Penelope Corfield, Martin Ayres, Fred Taggart, David Young, Lyndon Fothergill, Judith Nurse and Anne Hooper.

Rosalind Glover and Kara Tritton acted as tellers during the voting.

Nicko Barber is making a short video of the event. Photographs were also taken by Kara Tritton and Victoria Tee.

Agenda

1. Minutes of AGM 2025 and Matters Arising
2. Chair’s Report
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Committee retires and Election of a new Committee
5. Any other business
6. President’s Commendation

Guest Speaker: Dr Jane Jordan, “Henry Doulton’s Lady Artists”

The first item was to accept the Draft Minutes of the AGM of March 2025 as posted on the website. There were no amendments, and no matters arising that were not on the agenda. A **vote** was taken to accept the draft minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous AGM. The proposer was Carol Boucher, seconded by Sue Ellenby. Only paid-up members were eligible to vote. **Carried** by a clear majority on a show of hands (37).

Chair’s Report

The Chair presented her brief report on 2025. This was her sixth year as Chair of the Society.

Membership rose from 398 in December 2024 to 426 in December 2025, the highest it has ever been. A bar chart shows steady growth over the last five years.

The bulk of our income comes from membership fees. Recruitment remains a priority for the Society and the Committee have worked hard on this. Everyone who buys one of our publications is asked to join or to encourage a friend or neighbour to join us.

Membership	December 2025	December 2024
Total Membership	426	398
Including new members	53	36

The Society has members from all over England and we even have 1 members in France and the USA. The audience was asked to encourage a local friend or neighbour to join and to pass on the magazine once read, to illustrate the interesting and valuable work the Society does. We had worked at getting as many members as possible to sign up for Gift Aid as this provides valuable extra income. Last year Gift Aid amounted to £648.

In June the Society took a stall, as usual, at the Ruskin Park Summer Fête.

We continued to be represented on the Brockwell Lido Users Association and maintained close links with other local organisations, including the Herne Hill Forum, the Friends of Brockwell Park, the Friends of Ruskin Park, the Camberwell Society and the Dulwich Society.

Laurence Marsh, our Vice-Chair, gave a talk as part of the Lambeth Heritage Festival in September. The theme was “Changing Tastes: Art collectors in Victorian Lambeth”.

Our books continued to sell well, direct from the website, through stalls and through Herne Hill Books by the station: around 100 items.

We usually produce three issues of *Herne Hill* magazine, hand-delivered to members by a team of volunteers, and also available online. Through its unmissable news items and feature articles, the magazine records the changes and developments of our locality. Our thanks go editor Laurence Marsh, and to his wife Sophia for the design, as well as all those who wrote for and took pictures for the magazine. Only two issues of the magazine were issued in 2025 due to the illness and death of Laurence. We also issue monthly electronic newsletters to all members and thanks are due to Colin Wight for these.

Our presence on Instagram is growing, with 906 followers, sharing information about historical, environmental and community issues.

The Planning Group was very active last year, evaluating applications affecting the built environment and engaging in broader issues of planning policy. They monitor applications in the Herne Hill and Loughborough Junction ward (Lambeth) and Dulwich Village ward (Southwark). Our thanks go to the seven members of the Group, which will continue in a slightly new guise as it was previously led by Laurence Marsh.

Our Shops History project is delayed, although six test pages have been published on the website.

The Excellence Awards Celebration in the summer was a great success. Helen Hayes MP presented the Awards to our nine finalists. Their achievements have been featured in our Herne Hill magazine. We will be taking nominations for the next round of Awards in the late summer 2026, with a closing date of 31 January 2027.

Helen Hayes MP will be joining us shortly. She had generously donated a bottle of House of Commons champagne as a raffle prize. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes.

Treasurer's report

Due to illness, Lyndon Fothergill was unable to be present and his report was presented by Colin Wight. The accounts summary has been posted on our website.

Introduction

- The 2025 accounts run from 1 January to 31 December 2025. They show the Society's 2024 income and expenditure compared to that of 2024.

The Society's income by category:

- Almost half our income comes from Membership Subscriptions which, as we have charitable status, can be Gift Aided. The second source of Society income is Magazine Advertising. The next biggest source of income was Donations.

Actual income in 2025 compared to 2024:

- Membership and gift aid income was slightly up compared to 2024 (we have more members), with publication sales and magazine advertising income slightly down.
- Our largest expenditure was on Magazine printing. Other printing refers to reprints of two of our book titles. Other significant categories of expenditure were Website and IT costs, and Small grants. Income was £7878.50, expenditure £6412.68. Whilst we are in a healthy position overall, with a bank balance of £16,633.03 (above the Charity Commission's recommended reserve for a charity of our size), the Committee is always looking at ways to reduce expenditure and increase income.
- Membership subscriptions were last increased in 2018 (to £10/8 a year). We are looking at increasing fees in the near future, after moving to Direct Debits from Standing Orders. We will keep members informed.

The accounts and paperwork have been examined and checked, and if agreed by the members, the figures will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Questions from the floor:

Q: Where is our Bank account now?

A: We have recently moved from CAF to the Co-op Bank.

Q: What are the criteria for giving small grants?

A: There is a link on the home page of the website. Applicants fill out a detailed application: What is your project? Where will it operate and how does it benefit the residents of Herne Hill? Have you sought support from elsewhere? We are flexible about what we donate. If we can help we will try to do so.

Q: Will you consider sending a representative to the Herne Hill Forum Committee?

A: To be discussed after the AGM.

Sheila Northover proposed accepting the 2025 accounts and Gail Bourne seconded the proposal. **The motion was carried unanimously with 44 votes.**

The Committee retired. Colin Wight (President), as Returning Officer, conducted the Election of the new Committee.

The candidates for Officer roles were taken one by one, then the remaining Committee members as a group. Therefore there were five elections. Only paid-up members were eligible to vote.

Vote: Rebecca Tee as Chair – Nominated by Colin Wight, seconded by Kara Tritton. **The motion was carried unanimously and Rebecca Tee was duly elected as Chair.**

There will be no Vice Chair at present.

Vote: Lyndon Fothergill as Treasurer – Nominated by Martyn Hall, seconded by Val Suebsaeng **The motion was carried unanimously and Lyndon Fothergill was duly elected as Treasurer.**

Vote: Susie Perring as Secretary – Nominated by Lin Proctor, seconded by Lyndon Fothergill. **The motion was carried unanimously and Susie Perring was duly elected as Secretary.**

Rosalind Glover, Membership Secretary - Nominated by Robert Holden, seconded by Sheila Northover. **The motion was carried unanimously and Rosalind Glover was duly elected as Membership Secretary.**

The final **vote** was for four further Committee members, taken as a group:

Val Suebsaeng, Nominated by Susie Perring, Seconded by Rosalind Glover

Henry Ferguson – Nominated by Rosalind Glover, seconded by Colin Wight.

Lin Proctor – Nominated by Matt Tee, seconded by Victoria Barber.

Martyn Hall – Nominated by Helen Bristow, seconded by Lin Proctor

The motion was **carried by a clear majority and Val Suebsaeng, Henry Ferguson, Lin Proctor and Martyn Hall were all elected as Committee members.**

The members present were thanked for their support throughout the year. Anyone interested in joining the Committee or getting more involved with the Society was invited to

contact the Chair. Feedback was welcomed, especially when the Society does something well, positive comments being very heartening!

No matters were raised under AOB.

President's Commendation

Colin Wight, President of the Society, awarded this year's President's Commendation to Laurence Marsh, who died in January 2026. Laurence Mash joined the Herne Hill Society in 2008. As well as Vice-Chair, he also chaired the planning group and wrote and edited the magazine with the help with his wife Sophia. His earliest piece for the magazine, "The loss of front gardens", led to a project to plant trees in Fawnbrake Avenue. Colin Wight presented the award to Laurence's son, Alexander Marsh, who thanked the Society, saying:

"He was a prolific artist, producing thousands of drawings and paintings in the '60s and 7'0s. This productivity dropped off when he joined the Society as he seemed to find a creative passion in his work there. Having considered himself somewhat of an outsider, with the social aspect of the group, he found many friends with a shared passion."

The meeting ended at 7:00pm.

At 7:30pm Dr Jane Jordan gave an illustrated talk on "Henry Doulton's Lady Artists".

The Raffle was drawn by Helen Hayes MP and Dr Jane Jordan. Thank you to all those who contributed a prize. £236.00 was raised.