
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire (BEH) branch Annual General Meeting, 22 September 2020

Location: Virtual Zoom meeting

Agenda:

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Annual lecture
3. Apologies for absence
4. Review of committee roles
5. Elect new committee members
6. Chair's report
7. Treasurer's report
8. Future events
9. AOB

Introduction and welcome

BEH chair, Hephzi Tagoe welcomed branch members and visitors to the AGM 2020 followed by an introduction to Dr Patricia Fara who gave the annual lecture.

Annual lecture

Dr Patricia Fara is a historian of science at the University of Cambridge. She is a former Fellow of Darwin College and is an Emeritus Fellow of Clare College where she was previously Director of Studies in History and Philosophy and Science. Dr Fara is author of numerous popular books on the history of science and has been a guest on BBC Radio 4's science and history discussion series, In Our Time. Dr Fara gave a presentation on women in science during the last 100 years. There was time for questions and discussion.

Roll call

Apologies/absence: None received

Present:

Hephzi Tagoe (Chair)

Yasmin Meeda (Treasurer)

Jacqui Piner (Secretary)

Frances Evans (Education Officer)

Charlie Brown (committee member)

Manuela Natoli (committee member)

Nigel Brown (FRSB, RSB Council member, Chair of the College of Individual Members, Chair of Branches Working Group)

Ian Catchpole (FRSB), Julia Hughes (MRSB), Paul Whittaker (MRSB), Jacqueline McPherson (MRSB), Kulvinder Johal (Affiliate), Elizabeth Byaruhanga (MRSB), Lyn Healy (FRSB), Sarah Lucken (Affiliate), Nicholas Austin (Affiliate).

Professor Nigel Brown

Nigel welcomed members of the branch to communicate directly for any reason as a route back to the RSB Council. He reported that RSB staff are working from home due to Covid-19 restrictions and recommended that 6 weeks was the minimum notice for branch events. There will not be any face to face RSB events until April 2021 at the earliest which provides opportunities to invite speakers from outside the region. Nigel challenged the committee to consider branch members who do not/cannot join virtual meetings. Also, how to address equality, diversity and inclusion. RSB will be reviewing the Chartered Biologist professional recognition in the near future.

Review of committee roles

Current committee members and officers are willing to continue to serve. There was no interest from other branch members in joining the committee despite publicity of vacancies. Charlie Brown will take on the Secretary position following a period of shadowing the present secretary.

Name	Position	Year term started at AGM
Hephzi Tagoe	Chair	2018
Yasmin Meeda	Treasurer	2018
Jacqui Piner	Secretary	2016
Frances Evans	Education Officer	2019
Charlie Brown	Committee member	2018
Manuela Natoli	Committee member	2019

Chairperson's report

The branch very quickly adapted to COVID-19 changes and managed to organise a number of virtual events including a "meet your committee zoom", the annual AGM, a quiz night and an ethics talk. All events had a good turn out with interactive engagement and huge thanks to the committee for making these possible.

The branch will continue to engage members online with a couple of talks, a possible book club and virtual quiz in the pipeline. With the new regions page, we hope to be able to better connect with our regional members.

Earlier in the year there was a visit to the Royal Vet College in Camden which was jointly organised with the London branch. There was an interesting tour, a visit to the museum of specimens and a fun quiz.

Treasurer's report

Yasmin described the financial position at 22 September 2020

The statement details the outgoings and the incomings over the financial year.

Beginning balance (September 2019) £1000

Income N/A

Expenses

Date	Event	Cost
18.02.2020	Royal Vet School Tour	N/A
28.08.2020	Virtual Quiz	N/A
22.09.2020	AGM	N/A
08.10.2020	Your body your consent	N/A

End of year cash balance: £1000

Suggestions for future events

- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Women in Science
- Quiz (one planned for 30 October 2020)
- Virology
- Book and/or journal club: invite the author for a discussion
- Paul Nurse

AOB

There was not any other business

Minutes prepared by Jacqui Piner, 20 October 2020