



The Trollope Society, PO Box 505, Tunbridge Wells TN2 9RW
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The **33rd Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture** of the Trollope Society will take place at **6.30pm** on **Thursday 29th October, 2020** on Zoom

AGENDA

1. Introduction by Chairman
2. Apologies
3. To receive the Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Committee held on 24th October 2019.
4. To receive Treasurer's Report and Accounts
5. To note the appointment of Honorary Officers and Trustees
6. To note the appointment of the Independent Examiner
7. Chairman's Report

Following the AGM

- The 33rd Annual Lecture will be given by Francesca Simon who will be discussing her relationship with Anthony Trollope as a writer.
- The evening will conclude with an opportunity to meet and Francesca Simon and other members via Zoom.

Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Trollope Society

held at St Columba's Church, London

on Thursday, 24th October 2019

Present: Dominic Edwardes (in the Chair) and 47 members of the Trollope Society.

Dominic Edwardes welcomed all members and friends to the 32nd Annual General Meeting on behalf of the Trustees and the Executive Committee to St Columba's Church. He explained that this year the Society had left, what had been for many years the home of the AGMs, The National Liberal Club, and exchanged the late nineteenth century grandeur (and tiles) for the more restrained, simple aesthetic of St Columba's. There has been a Church of Scotland Kirk here since 1884. An incendiary bomb destroyed the original building in 1941. The kirk was rebuilt and the current building dedicated in 1955. Today, as well as being home to a thriving congregation, St Columba's provides a valuable meeting space, one that the Trollope Society often uses for meetings of the London Seminar Group.

Dominic Edwardes extended a very warm welcome to our President, Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, and to Lady Emma. Julian Fellowes is a great Trollopie and has introduced millions of television viewers across the world to Anthony Trollope through his adaptation of Doctor Thorne in 2016. His television drama Downton Abbey is a global phenomenon, broadcast in over 100 countries and recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the most critically acclaimed English language television series of 2011. Downton Abbey continued for six series and has in its time included some distinctly Trollopie storylines. The film adaptation of Downton Abbey was released in September this year, and is a gorgeous, lavish production, with a wonderful cast and guaranteed to entertain.

Dominic Edwardes also welcomed the speaker for the evening, Dr Sophie Ratcliffe (a Fellow and Tutor of English Language and Literature at Lady Margaret Hall and an Associate Professor at the Faculty of English at Oxford University). Sophie's areas of interest include 19th and 20th Century Literature and her book, The Lost Properties of Love, published by William Collins in February 2019, was available to purchase following Sophie's lecture on the complexities and ambiguities in the relationship between Trollope and Kate Field.

The Chair then said that before the business of the AGM, he wanted to pause and remember Members of the Society who we have lost in the last year. Richard Gregson was a hard-working member of the Committee, who died in July. Richard helped to involve the Society with the world of music and drama and was instrumental in the arrangements for the enjoyable event held at the Royal Opera House in 2012. He was also closely involved with the preparations for the Bicentenary of Trollope's birth in 2015. We will remember him with sincere gratitude and affection. A memorial service for Richard was to be held on Saturday, on 26th October at 2 o'clock in St Paul's Church, Covent Garden. The Chair extended our sincere sympathy and condolences to Richard's family and friends.

There followed a one minute's silence in his memory.

1. Apologies: Susan Hampshire OBE

The Rt. Hon. Sir John Major KG, CH
Joanna Trollope OBE
Pamela Morgan
Jean Ammar
Howard Greg
John Allan
Peter Blacklock
Julian Axe
Teresa Connolly

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 25th October 2018 were received. These had already been agreed by the Trustees and there were no matters arising. Copies of the Minutes had been circulated to those attending the meeting in person.

3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts:

The Treasurer, David Glass, reported that the Trollope Society accounts, which had been circulated to all members present, were in good order. Although there was an overall deficit this year of £1,275, this was totally due to a paper transaction writing off £1,500 of the book stock from unrestricted reserves (shown in the Income and expenditure account as Movement of Stock). Otherwise there was a surplus of £225. We will continue to write off the book stock to reflect book sales.

The effective surplus was in no small part due to the Society receiving £5,500 worth of donations which was virtually the same as last year. The Treasurer reminded all members that as a charity, donations are not only welcome but vital for the ongoing financial viability of the Society and any help members give us either via specific or regular donations and legacies is very welcome.

Overall expenditure and income were both down by about £15,000 since there had not been a major dinner in this fiscal year. The positive outcome of the dinner in April this year will be reported at next year's AGM.

Printing of Trollopiana cost more this year (£700) as we had moved to a new company which also manages our book storage and sale logistics. This decision has been reversed in the last month so lower costs are expected in the future.

Book sales at £3000 were well down on 2018, but partially made up for by a good result on other sales mainly of tea towels (£3000) depicting the map of Barsetshire.

There was a slight reduction in subscriptions (£1400), but lower office expenses and management expenses have dropped by £1100. There is the continued benefit of operating a virtual office with the bookkeeper Chris Dunford in Dorset, the secretary in Tunbridge Wells, the treasurer and the chairman in London. This system is working well and is immensely valuable.

The Treasurer recorded his thanks to Chris Dunford for keeping the books in such good order. She continues to do an excellent job.

A full set of accounts was available for anyone to look at and the Treasurer was happy to answer any questions.

The Report and Accounts were received.

4. Appointment of Honorary Officers and Trustees

The Chair said that the Society is run by a team of dedicated volunteers. The Honorary Officers and Trustees of the Society are:

President

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford

Vice-Presidents

Susan Hampshire

The Rt. Hon. Sir John Major

Joanna Trollope

Hugh Trollope

Trustees

Dominic Edwardes (Chair)

Susan Cooper (Secretary)

David Glass (Treasurer)

Priscilla Hungerford

Pamela Morgan

Executive Committee

Michael G Williamson

Jean Ammar

Nicola Barnes

Lucia Costanzo

Mark Green

Christina Dunford

5. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

It was noted that Finsbury Robinson had been reappointed as Independent Examiner.

6. Chairman's Report:

Dominic Edwardes reported that it had been another busy, eventful year for the Trollope Society, one in which we had held numerous events: from grand dinners to local reading groups and even a picnic. We had celebrated the 150th anniversary of the publication of Phineas Finn, and had perhaps drawn parallels between today's political world and the world that Phineas Finn inhabited, noting that truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

Tea Towels: Dominic Edwardes said that at last year's AGM Lord Fellowes and Lady Emma revealed the Trollope Society's Barsestshire Map tea-towel and Lady Emma had challenged us to an impromptu quiz on the various locations featured on the map. Dominic was not sure that we had convinced her that we knew anything at all about Trollope's imaginary county! However, the Chair was delighted to say that the tea-towel had been something of a hit and by April we had completely sold out. The Chair reported that's not the end of the road for the map, which was beautifully illustrated by Simon Grennan, acclaimed scholar, graphic novelist and cartoonist and also the creator of *Dispossession*, the first graphic adaptation of a novel by Anthony Trollope. Michael Williamson and Simon Grennan were working on producing a new printed version of the map, which will be available to order from the Society's website soon.

Old Hall Dinner: The Society held the Biennial Dinner in the Old Hall at Lincoln's Inn on 5th April 2019. The theme of the dinner was Phineas Finn, marking the 150th anniversary of the publication in book format by Virtue and Company in 1869. Trollope Society member The Very Reverend Michael Higgins and his daughter Gabrielle sponsored the evening. The Chair was delighted that so many members had been able to join us, including Hugh Trollope and his wife Barbara, and we were honoured to welcome Lord Fellowes and Lady Emma as guests. The vocal ensemble Scaramella Singers entertained us, and Michael Williamson gave a fascinating talk on the connection between Trollope, Lincoln's Inn and Phineas Finn. We are particularly grateful to the Reverend Canon David Reindorp, who very kindly stepped in at the last moment to give the Toast to the Society.

Phineas Finn Walk: On the day before the dinner, Blue Badge Guide Paul Baker held a special legal walk around Lincoln's Inn, highlighting the locations that Trollope mentions in Phineas Finn and other novels. The walk was very successful, with more than 30 people attending, peering in at windows and learning about the close connection between Trollope's father, Thomas Anthony, and the various buildings of Lincoln's Inn.

The Chair said that the Society is fortunate that Paul Baker holds a number of Trollope walks throughout the year, and we will be working with him to link walks to future events where possible.

Facebook reading group: The Phineas Finn celebrations continued online. The Society teamed up with the popular Anthony Trollope Facebook group to hold a Phineas Finn online read. The group read Phineas Finn over a two-month period at the rate of a chapter a day. Throughout the Online Read members of the group provided Chapter Summaries and stimulated discussion. We are grateful to the Groups administrators for supporting the Phineas Finn read, in particular Jane Woolley for all her work in making the event a success.

Seminar Groups: Over the course of the year our Seminar Groups have continued to thrive, with meetings in London, Manchester, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Suffolk. Reading Trollope is at the heart of the Society, and the work of the Seminar Group Leaders is invaluable in reaching out to Trollope enthusiasts and providing a forum for the discussion of his works. The Chair thanked Nicky Barnes for coordinating the Seminar Groups and keeping members informed via regular email updates.

In November 2019 we will be trialling a new group, The Shires group, which will be meeting in Market Harborough. Committee member Lucia Costanzo will lead the group and the Chair said that if anyone is interested in joining the Shires group, or any other, to look on the website for dates.

The Alliance of Literary Societies: In May members of the Committee attended the Alliance of Literary Society's AGM weekend, this year held in Nuneaton by the George Eliot Fellowship. Dominic Edwardes said that he had never thought he would spend a weekend in Nuneaton but was very glad that he did. The event was well attended with delegates from all manner of literary societies. The focus of the weekend was the Bicentenary of the birth of George Eliot. There were a number of fascinating talks, including one by Professor Kathryn Hughes, author of *George Eliot: The Last Victorian*, on George Eliot's life as a dairy-maid, and the size of her hands! We learned from her that George Eliot told acquaintances that her right hand was bigger than her left, explaining that it had become so from years of churning butter. Her nephew vehemently denied the claim, as it drew attention to the humble beginnings of the Evans family. Kathryn Hughes had a show-stopping exhibit for the conclusion of her talk: a right hand glove belonging to Eliot. In reality, it was tiny.

Aside from providing opportunities to learn fascinating details about other authors, the Alliance of Literary Societies provides a forum for around 125 literary societies to come together, form relationships and help one another with common challenges. Dominic Edwardes reported that Mark Green, Trollope Society Executive Committee member and Editor of *Trollopiana*, had joined the Alliance of Literary Society's Committee and looked forward to greater collaboration between the Trollope Society and the ALS.

Boris Johnson: In accordance with the Society's tradition of sending a copy of Trollope's *The Prime Minister* to new Prime Ministers, a copy of the novel was sent to Boris Johnson in August. The Chair had received a reply from the Prime Minister's office thanking the Society and asking him to convey the Prime Minister's best wishes to members of the Society.

The Duke's Children: The Chair reported that Michael Williamson had made further progress on the publication of the Extended Edition of *The Duke's Children*. The Trollope Society holds the rights to the Extended Edition along with Professor Steven Amarnick, who painstakingly researched and edited the complete text from Trollope's original manuscript. This means that following the publication of the Folio Society's edition in 2015, and the publication in hardback by Everyman's Library in 2017, the extended version of *The Duke's Children* will be now published next year in paperback as part of the prestigious Oxford World's Classics series. This will bring the new text to a wide paperback readership, and we hope that it will quickly become established as the definitive text. The new edition will also be available as an etext to download on a Kindle at some point.

In addition to the new Oxford World's Classic's paperback, the new audio edition of *The Duke's Children* published by Naxos Audio Books is now available. David Shaw-Parker, who has a wonderfully Trollopiian voice, reads the book. The download price is £52, or if you have a monthly Audible subscription, you can download the new edition for one credit, just £7.99.

**THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31st 2020**

Review of the year

It has been an eventful year for the Trollope Society. In April 2019 we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the publication of Phineas Finn at our Biennial Dinner in the Old Hall at Lincoln's Inn. Blue Badge Guide Paul Baker held a special legal oriented walk around Lincoln's Inn, and The Society teamed up with the popular Anthony Trollope Facebook group to hold a Phineas Finn online read. In October Dr Sophie Ratcliffe gave the 32nd Annual Lecture on the complexities and ambiguities in the relationship between Trollope and Kate Field. The AGM and Annual Lecture were attended by the Society's President, Lord Fellowes of West Stafford. In January Dr Barbara Lauriat, Senior Lecturer in Law at King's College London and member of the Trollope Society, held a dramatic reading of her play 'The Shilly-Shally Affair' at The Athenaeum Club in London. We continue to keep a close eye on the costs of running the Society. In the last year we have embraced digital-working by holding regular bi-weekly video conference meetings and moving our Committee meetings online. We have also taken advantage of Microsoft's support for charities and moved our email and IT system to Office 365. From March 2020 the coronavirus crisis had a dramatic effect on the Society's plans. The fundraising dinner at the House of Lords in March was cancelled. Our seminar groups and events have also been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Plans for the future

We have responded to the COVID-19 crisis by moving our events programme online. We have established a busy programme including Zoom reading groups, lectures and a Zoom performance of Barbara Lauriat's play 'The Shilly-Shally Affair.' Later in the year the Society will be running a promotion, 'Pick Up A Trollope', aimed at encouraging new readers. The promotion will include an online poll and a group read of the winning novel. We are grateful for the support of our donors and the National Lottery Community Fund for their support of this initiative.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
Dominic Edwardes
Chairman and Trustee



**THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31st 2020**

	Notes	2020	2019
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	19,874	21,874
Current assets			
Debtors	10	6,093	9,570
Cash at bank	9	<u>87,551</u>	<u>80,008</u>
		<u>93,643</u>	<u>89,578</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>-53,663</u>	<u>-52,104</u>
Net current assets		<u>39,980</u>	<u>37,474</u>
Total assets		<u>59,854</u>	<u>59,348</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
Loan of indefinite duration (non interest bearing)		-10,000	-10,000
Provision for unexpired subscriptions		<u>-7,862</u>	<u>-8,061</u>
		<u>-17,862</u>	<u>-18,061</u>
Net assets	12	<u>41,992</u>	<u>41,287</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted	13	40,221	39,516
Designated	14	<u>1,771</u>	<u>1,771</u>
Net funds		<u>41,992</u>	<u>41,287</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on

Dominic Edwardes
Trustee

David Glass
Trustee




THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	2020	2019
Expenditure		
Trollopiana and Promotion	11,146	10,220
Movement of Stock	2,000	1,500
Promotion and Public Relations	2,000	4,186
Administration	4,931	4,845
Accommodation	0	366
Office Expenses	1,975	1,191
Management Expenses	447	1,259
Postage	378	799
Bank and credit card charges	932	917
Members' events	9,774	2,360
Annual general meeting	266	595
Accountancy	565	565
Storage and dispatch	1,071	1,998
Production	0	248
	35,485	31,049
Income		
Subscriptions	10,681	10,439
Gift aid - subscriptions	1,525	1,542
Donations and gift aid thereon	5,198	5,459
Income from goods and services	4,048	3,154
Sales of Trollope novels	3,367	2,952
Sale of other books		20
Members' events	10,373	2,625
Interest receivable	666	596
Other sales	332	2,988
	36,190	29,774
Surplus for the year	705	-1,275

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2020 which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, and regulations made under section 154 of that act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for my work, for this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Finsbury Robinson Ltd.

237 Westcombe Hill

London SE3 7DW

Date: 08/09/2020

Finsbury Robinson

Trollopiana: Dominic Edwardes said that he hoped many members enjoy receiving the Society's magazine, Trollopiana. This year the magazine has continued to be full of interesting articles both academic and social, and he thanked Mark Green for his work editing the magazine.

Dominic Edwardes apologised for the late arrival of the Autumn edition of Trollopiana and thanked members for their patience in booking tickets for the AGM and Annual Lecture. Unfortunately the Print and fulfilment company ceased operations without notifying the Society, leaving us without a printer for the Autumn edition. The Chair thanked the N2 Group for stepping in and producing and mailing Trollopiana in record time.

The Chair said that aside from keeping members up to date with all things Trollopiian, the Society strives to reach new audiences through our online presence. In the last year over 58,000 people have visited our website, viewing a total of over 150,000 pages. The website continues to be a valuable resource for all Trollopians, providing information on Trollope and on the Society's work and activities. The Society is active on social media too. We have a total of 2,500 followers on Facebook and Twitter, and the majority of new members now come to us via our website.

Costs: The Chair reported that the Trustees continue to keep a close eye on the costs of running the Society. The Society moved to a virtual office some years ago, making significant savings in rent and providing greater convenience for Committee members to do their work. In the last year we continued the move towards digital-working by holding regular bi-weekly video conference meetings. We have taken advantage of Microsoft's support for charities, and moved our email and IT system to Office 365 with the pro bono support of IT consultancy, Smartdesc. This means that we are able to run our email system, and securely store data in the Cloud at no cost to the Society and with improvements to data security.

The Committee no longer meets at the National Liberal Club. We have made alternative arrangements for Committee meetings and are grateful for the support of Barclays in providing us with a meeting room at their Canary Warf office free of charge. Moving away from the National Liberal Club and booking St Columba's for this evening's AGM and Annual Lecture has also made savings. These have been passed on to members in the form of a lower ticket price for this evening's supper.

Committee: The Committee, consisting of volunteers supported by our Financial Assistant Christina Dunford, carry out the work of the Society. Together the Committee arranges trips, dinners and social events, coordinates reading groups, produces Trollopiana three times a year, runs our website and social media, and works to promote the reading and enjoyment of Trollope's work in every way possible. Dominic Edwardes thanked all of the Committee including Nicky Barnes, Priscilla Hungerford, Jean Ammar, Lucia Costanzo, Michael Williamson, Mark Green, Pamela Morgan, David Glass and Susan Cooper and invited members to give them a round of applause.

Athenaeum: Looking forward to next year, Dominic Edwardes was delighted that Dr Barbara Lauriat, Senior Lecturer in Law at King's College London and member of the Trollope Society, has arranged a dramatic reading of her play 'The Shilly Shally Affair' at The Athenaeum Club in January. The play focuses on Charles Reade's unauthorized dramatic adaptation of Trollope's novel Ralph the Heir in

1871. At the time, Trollope was incensed to discover that Reade—a novelist and dramatist who had himself suffered at the hands of unauthorized adaptors — had written the play and sold it to John Hollingshead at the Gaiety theatre. He was even more outraged when critics accused the play of indecency. Trollope and Reade's notorious falling-out over the incident brought further attention to the question of whether the law should prevent unauthorized adaptations and led both of the men to lobby for copyright reform.

Barbara will give a short talk introducing the background of the dispute, which will be followed by a dramatic reading of her one-act play. A drinks reception will follow.

Trip to Florence: The Chair reported that Last August, Mark Green, Susan Cooper and he had spent a very hot weekend in Florence, on a recce for next April's Trollope Society Trip to Florence when we will be following in the footsteps of Anthony Trollope who visited the city several times to stay with his mother Fanny, and his brother Thomas Adolphus. We were delighted to establish connections with the British Institute and the English Cemetery and have put together a draft itinerary including:

- A visit to the English Cemetery where Fanny Trollope and other family members are buried.
- Afternoon tea at the British Institute.
- A lecture by Julia Holloway, the remarkable and charismatic manager of the English Cemetery, on Fanny Trollope and her political and social activism.
- Lectures on The Place of Italy in Nineteenth Century English Literature and Trollope's Novels Featuring Italian Settings and Characters.

There will also be a walking tour of the city, including the villa where the Trollope family lived.

The price of the programme is £100 with an optional three-course dinner for £60.

Our experience from the Trip to Prague in 2017 taught us that using a Travel Agent for a group booking added little value and only served to increase the cost of flights and hotels. For the Trip to Florence we have therefore decided to ask members to make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation. Full details of the programme are available in the recent issue of Trollopiana and on the website.

Mark Green reported that, to coincide with the Trip to Florence, the Society is aiming to make Frances Trollope's book ***The Life and Adventures of Jonathan Jefferson Whitlaw*** available. This was originally published in 1836 but has been out of print for many years.

Travel with a Trollope: In the Summer of 2020 the Society is planning a promotion aimed at reaching a wider reading public, encouraging them to Travel with a Trollope. Plans for the initiative are still in the early stages. Dominic Edwardes thanked Trollope Society member Jennifer Bryant-Pearson for her support of this initiative, for her vision and drive.

Donations: The Chair said that, as a membership society, without the members, The Trollope Society would not exist. He thanked all members for their membership and support of the work of the Society. The Chair said he believed that it is important work, striving to ensure that the works of a

great Victorian author are read and enjoyed, discussed and explored. There have been times when Trollope's popularity has waned, and it's important that we work together to prevent Trollope being relegated to the position of a forgotten author.

Dominic Edwardes particularly thanked those members who make donations to the Society. We are a charity, as well as a membership organisation, our objective is: 'the advancement of the education of the public by the study and publication of the life and works of Anthony Trollope'. We depend on donations to deliver our charitable purpose, and are grateful for every gift that we receive. He encouraged members to continue to support our work in the coming year by making a donation online through our website, by post, or consider leaving a legacy to the Trollope Society in your Will. There is information on all forms of giving on our website.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Dominic Edwardes then introduced the evening's speaker for the 32nd Annual Lecture, Dr Sophie Ratcliffe. Her book, *The Lost Properties of Love*, is a startlingly honest and brave account of the messiness of life, love and loss. In it Sophie reveals the importance of bags and trains, the pleasure of messiness, and her discovery of Anthony Trollope.

She says, 'Before I began to read anything by this most prolific of Victorians, I thought Trollope to be something like the Woolworths of classic fiction. Steady. Dull. And always bidding for a comeback. Placed against the passion of *Wuthering Heights* and the pathos of *Oliver Twist*, I imagined that Trollope's books would be as unglamorous and sensible-looking as their bearded, waistcoated Victorian author. I was wrong. Trollope is a roman-fleuve of passion and chaos. He's Jilly Cooper meets Ibsen.'

Woven throughout the book are the stories of Kate Field, Trollope, Tolstoy and Anna Karenina. Her lecture was entitled ***The Way We Read Trollope Now***.

At the conclusion of the lecture, a vote of thanks was given by Dominic Edwardes on behalf of the membership. As usual the Lecture will be published in the next issue of Trollopiana.

The proceedings were concluded with wine and a buffet supper.