



The Trollope Society, PO Box 505, Tunbridge Wells TN2 9RW  
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**The 34th Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture**  
of the Trollope Society will take place at  
**6.00pm on Thursday 21st October, 2021**  
at The Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EW

### **AGENDA**

1. Introduction by Chairman
2. Apologies
3. To receive the Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
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 34th Annual Lecture will be given by Professor John Bowen on the subject of 'Clean and Dirty Trollopes'.
- The evening will conclude with a wine and canapé reception for ticket holders.

## **Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Trollope Society**

held on Zoom on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Present:** Dominic Edwardes (in the Chair) and 78 members of the Trollope Society.

Dominic Edwardes, the Chair of the Trollope Society, introduced himself and welcomed everyone, both members of the Society and guests, to the 33<sup>rd</sup> AGM and Annual Lecture of the Trollope Society. He said that sadly this year, as it was not possible to meet in person, the Society was relying on Zoom technology to bring everyone together digitally. The Chair was delighted to see so many faces that he recognised from the regular Zoom reading group and so many other members who he had not been able to see since lockdown. He also thanked those who were using Zoom for the first time to join a Trollope Society meeting.

The Chair spoke briefly about the papers for the AGM. Everyone who had registered for the meeting had received a reminder email that included a link to download the papers. Members of the Society had the Agenda, the Minutes of last year's meeting and a summary of the Trustees' Report and Accounts, which were also included in the last Trollopiana mailing. The papers could also be downloaded from [trollopesociety.org/33rd-agm-papers](http://trollopesociety.org/33rd-agm-papers).

The Chair extended a very warm welcome to the speaker for the evening, Francesca Simon, author of the best-selling Horrid Henry children's books. Horrid Henry is published in 27 languages, and the books have sold millions of copies worldwide. In 2008, Horrid Henry and the Abominable Snowman won the Children's Book of the Year Award at the Galaxy British Book Awards. Francesca's first opera, The Monstrous Child, with music by Gavin Higgins, received rave reviews when it opened at the Royal Opera House.

Francesca is also a passionate ambassador for children's literacy and access to literature. She has been actively involved with many literacy charities and initiatives including Beanstalk, The Reading Agency, BookTrust's Children's Reading Fund and Storybook Dads and is also a former trustee of World Book Day. Francesca is also a member of the Trollope Society and is passionate about Anthony Trollope. Immediately after the AGM Francesca would talk about her relationship with Anthony Trollope, both personal and as a writer in the 33<sup>rd</sup> AGM lecture.

The Chair said that before the business of the AGM, he wanted to pause and remember members of the Society who we had lost in the last year.

Sarah Feather was a member of the society and an active member of Anthony Trollope Facebook Group. Sadly, Sarah died at the end of August of cancer, aged just 51. The Chair extended the sincere sympathy and condolences of the Society to Sarah's family and friends.

Although not a member of the Society, Philip Latham introduced Trollope to millions in his role as Plantagenet Palliser, opposite Susan Hampshire's Lady Glencora, in the BBC's 1972 adaptation of The Pallisers. After a long and distinguished acting career Philip Latham died in June 2020.

There followed a one minute's silence in memory of those who we have lost in the last year.

- 1. Apologies:** The Rt. Hon. The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford  
Susan Hampshire OBE  
The Rt. Hon. Sir John Major KG, CH  
Joanna Trollope OBE  
Hugh Trollope  
Priscilla Hungerford  
Cathy Brooks

- 2. Minutes:**

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 24th October 2019 were received. These had already been agreed by the Trustees and there were no matters arising. Copies of the Minutes were available to download from the Society's website.

- 3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts:**

The Treasurer, David Glass, reported that a summary of the Trollope Society accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 had been circulated to all members and he was pleased to report that the accounts were in good order.

There was an overall surplus of £705, even after writing off £2,000 from the book stock held as a tangible asset (shown in the income and expenditure account as Movement of Stock). This sum reflected a portion of book sales. The Society 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 £5,198 worth of donations which was slightly down on 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 can give us either via specific or regular donations and legacies would be very welcome.

Overall expenditure was £35,485. The major items of expenditure were Trollopiana (£11,146) and events (£9,774) the majority of which was the biennial dinner in April 2019. Events produced an overall surplus of £600. Administration (bookkeeping) was £4,931, a small increase of £86.

Income was £36,190. There was a slight increase (£243) in subscriptions of £10,681 and an increase (£415) in the sale of books at £3,367.

The Treasurer said that 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 chair in London. This system worked well and is immensely valuable.

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

A full set of examined accounts was available 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 and reported that there had been four changes to the Trustees and Executive Committee in the last year:

- Following last year's AGM, Michael Williamson and Pamela Morgan had stepped down as a Trustees, but remained on the Executive Committee.
- In February 2020, Jennifer Bryant-Pearson had joined as a Trustee.
- In September 2020, Nicky Barnes had stepped down from the Executive Committee.

The Honorary Officers, Trustees and Executive Committee of the Society are as follows:

Our President is The Rt. Hon. The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford

Our Vice-Presidents are:

Susan Hampshire

The Rt. Hon. Sir John Major

Joanna Trollope

Hugh Trollope

The Trustees are:

Dominic Edwardes (Chair)

Susan Cooper (Hon Secretary)

David Glass (Hon Treasurer)

Jennifer Bryant-Pearson

Priscilla Hungerford

Members of the Executive Committee are:

Jean Ammar

Lucia Costanzo

Christina Dunford

Mark Green

Pamela Morgan

Michael Williamson

#### **5. Appointment of the Independent Examiner:**

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

#### **6. Chair's Report:**

The Chair said it had been remarkable and difficult year for the Trollope Society. In common with every other organisation and person, the Trollope Society's plans for 2020 had been completely uprooted when usual activities, such as reading groups, meetings, dinners and trips to Trollope related sites, all became impossible. The Society had coped well with the challenge posed by COVID-19. The Society

had successfully moved its activity online for the time-being and was pleased to be part of a vibrant online Trollope community.

### **The Shilly Shally Affair**

The Chair said that, looking back to the brief period at the start of 2020 before the pandemic, the Society had a number of events planned for the year. The first of these was able to take place in January when Dr Barbara Lauriat, Senior Lecturer in Law at King's College London and member of the Trollope Society, arranged a dramatic reading of her play 'The Shilly Shally Affair' at The Athenaeum Club.

The play focuses on Charles Reade's 1871 unauthorized dramatic adaptation of Trollope's novel *Ralph the Heir*. 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 men to lobby for copyright reform.

The reading was very well attended, reaching capacity in a beautiful room in the Athenaeum. Following the reading Barbara took questions, and those present enjoyed a delightful drinks reception.

### **The Duke's Children**

The Chair reported that other initiatives, not dependant on people meeting each other, had also continued. Most notably Michael Williamson had not allowed the coronavirus to stop his work on the publication of the new paperback edition of *The Duke's Children* or on the publication of the new map of Bassetshire.

The long-awaited paperback edition of *The Duke's Children* was published in Oxford World's Classics on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 in the UK and was due for publication in the US on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. 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. The publication in paperback and as an e-book by Oxford University Press will open the text to a wide readership and the Society hopes that it will quickly become established as the definitive text.

The Chair also reported that in addition to the new Oxford World's Classic's paperback, a new audio edition of *The Duke's Children* had been published by Naxos Audio Books is available. David Shaw-Parker, who has a wonderfully Trollopian voice, reads the book. The download price was £52, or with a monthly Audible subscription, the new edition could be downloaded for one credit, just £7.99.

### **Map of Basset**

The Chair reported that Michael Williamson had been working with illustrator Simon Grennan on amending and improving the new map of Bassetshire that featured a couple of years ago on the successful tea-towel. On the tea-towel, the vignettes obscured parts of the map causing some place names to be omitted. Michael therefore decided that what was needed for the true Trollope aficionado, was a new version of the map with the vignettes moved to the border. Michael succeeded

in his objective and the new map is the most accurate and definitive version of ‘the beloved county’ to date. The new map went on sale on the Trollope Society’s website in September 2020 and so far over 100 copies have been sold.

### **Coronavirus results in all events being cancelled**

The Chair reported that by February 2020, the effects of the coronavirus were being felt. At the Committee meeting held at the end of February, it had been decided to cancel the planned trip to Florence. Days later the government announced a travel ban to Italy and shortly after that the UK was put into lockdown. Around 35 people had signed up to take part in the Trip to Florence and we had carefully planned an exciting itinerary. In August 2019, Mark Green, Susan Cooper and the Chair had spent a very hot weekend in Florence, on a recce for the Trip to Florence. We were delighted to establish connections with the British Institute and the English Cemetery, and the Chair thanked Susan for her hard work in putting together the itinerary, which would have included:

- A visit to the English Cemetery where Fanny Trollope and other family members are buried.
- Afternoon tea at the British Institute.
- A number of lectures, including one by Julia Holloway, the remarkable and charismatic manager of the English Cemetery, on Fanny Trollope and her political and social activism.
- There was also to be a walking tour of the city, including a visit to the villa where the Trollope family lived.

The Society had planned, as part of the trip, to announce the publication of Fanny Trollope’s *The Life and Adventures of Jonathon Jefferson Whitlaw*, an anti-slavery novel that predates Harriet Beecher Stowes’ Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Julia Holloway had begun the task of typing the novel from a facsimile of the manuscript, and this was picked up by Mark Green, who worked to bring to fruition Julia’s long-standing project. The publication of the new edition of the novel was completed in the Summer and is available on Amazon to order.

### **Lockdown**

In March 2020, as the UK entered lockdown, all the Society’s seminar groups and events were cancelled. This included the Society’s first fundraising pledge dinner, which was to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March at the House of Lords, the day after the full lockdown began. The Chair said that he was extremely grateful to all those who had planned to attend the dinner and especially to those who generously pledged in advance of the dinner, raising something over £8,000. The Chair said that the dinner was in fact just postponed and he looked forward to the time when it can be rearranged.

### **New normal**

Faced with a prolonged period of lockdown and with still with no idea when it would be safe for people to travel and meet in groups, the Chair said that the Society had changed completely how it operated. In April 2020, a survey was conducted to ask people what they wanted from the Society online during the pandemic. More than 50 people responded, telling the Society that they would like a mix of regular contact through an informal reading group, together with more formal events such as lectures and seminars.

The Society then set about creating a series of online events on Zoom, with another group on WhatsApp, so that people can keep in touch as they read. At the heart of this is a regular reading group which meets once a fortnight to discuss progress on the book that the group is reading together. The first novel selected was *Framley Parsonage* and the group was named the Online Conversazione after Mrs Proudie's party. Fifty people joined the group to read *Framley Parsonage* and everyone was delighted that Professor Francis O'Gorman, who edited the Oxford World's Classics edition, led a seminar on the novel at the end of the read.

The group then went on to read *The Last Chronicle of Barset*. Trollope Society member, Ellen Moody, kindly led a seminar on the novel and a number of participants introduced 15 chapters each fortnight. More recently the group had just completed reading Trollope's first novel *The Macdermots of Ballycloran*.

In addition to the main reading group, the Manchester Seminar Group's meetings had moved online, and two meetings of the Edinburgh group and one of the London group had also been held on Zoom. Several one-off events had also been held, the most popular of which was an online play-reading of Barbara Lauriat's *Shilly Shally Affair*. The Society were honoured that Baroness Hale of Richmond, former President of the Supreme Court, took part in the reading taking the role narrator. The Chair was delighted that the event attracted over 130 participants.

### **Pick Up A Trollope**

Building on the success of the online programme, the Society applied to the National Lottery Community Coronavirus Fund and was pleased to be awarded £6,500 towards the costs of running the Pick Up A Trollope campaign. The objective of the funding was to combat isolation caused by coronavirus in older people and to teach older people digital skills such as using Zoom and WhatsApp.

This funding, together with money raised by the Pledge Dinner had enabled the Society to run the first promotion aimed at encouraging new readers to 'Pick Up A Trollope.' A booklet, featuring nine excerpts from Trollope's novels, selected by notable Trollopian had been produced and over 2,000 copies distributed. 500 of these had been sent to members of the Trollope Society in the UK, a further 500 were being sent out with orders for Trollope's novels by WHSmith online. Over 1,000 more have been ordered via the Trollope Society's website. The booklet was also available on the website as a downloadable pdf. Readers of the booklet were asked to vote on which novel from the selection they would like to read for the next online Zoom reading group, called the Pick Up A Trollope Big Read. The Chair reported that the campaign had been a great success and, in addition to the distribution of 2,000 booklets, there had also been:

- Over 1,200 votes from 29 countries. The greatest number of votes came from the UK and USA, but fans had also joined in from as far afield as Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, St. Petersburg and Bethlehem.
- 97% increase in the number of visitors to the Trollope Society's website.
- 21,000 page views of the Pick Up A Trollope area on the website.
- Over 75,000 people have seen the campaign on Facebook.
- Over 10,000 have engaged with the campaign, by clicking on the advert and either voting, ordering a booklet or reading the website.

The winning novel was due to be announced on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 and would then be read online worldwide in the “Pick-Up-A-Trollope Big Read”, bringing Trollope enthusiasts together every two weeks for a truly global book club, from 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Part of the campaign was a partnership with WHSmith online and Oxford University Press. WHSmith.co.uk were running an Essential Trollope Buy One Get One Half Price offer on all OUP Trollope novels until the end of 2020. The Society was very grateful to both WHSmith and OUP for supporting the Trollope Society’s objective of making Trollope’s works more accessible.

### **Committee**

The Chair thanked members of the Committee for their commitment and hard work, supported by our Financial Assistant, Christina Dunford. In normal times the Committee arranges trips, dinners and social events, coordinates reading groups, produces Trollopiana three times a year, runs the website and social media, and works to promote the reading and enjoyment of Trollope’s work in every way possible. This year the Society had welcomed Jennifer Bryant-Pearson as a new Trustee, whilst Michael Williamson and Pamela Morgan had stepped down as Trustees, but remained on the Committee for the time being. Also, Nicky Barnes had stepped down from her role organising local seminar groups and had left the Committee.

The Chair thanked all the Committee including: Jean Ammar, Nicky Barnes, Jennifer Bryant-Pearson, Susan Cooper, Lucia Costanzo, David Glass, Mark Green, Priscilla Hungerford, Pamela Morgan and Michael Williamson. He also thanked Chris Dunford for all her work and support in running the website and the Society.

The Chair gave special thanks to Mark Green, editor of Trollopiana, who had continued to produce one fascinating edition after another. For many, Trollopiana is the reason that they join the Society, and the Chair said that it is always a pleasure to see the excitement with which each edition is received on social media.

### **Membership**

The Chair reported that membership this year had increased slightly, in part due to the creation of a Digital Only membership category, which has proved popular with international members as it avoids the high cost of international postage. In September 2019, there were 580 active members, and in October 2020 this had grown to 605.

### **Donations**

As a membership society, without our members, The Trollope Society would not exist. The Chair thanked all members for their membership and for their support of the work of the Society.

This year, by raising voluntary income through personal donations and a grant from the Lottery, the Society had been able to reach over 75,000 people, encouraging them to Pick Up A Trollope. With the support of members, the Society will continue to encourage the reading, study and enjoyment of the works of Anthony Trollope.



The Society depends on donations to deliver its charitable purpose and is grateful for every gift received. The Chair asked for support for the Society's work in the coming year which can be done by making a donation online through the website, by post, or a legacy to the Trollope Society in your Will. There is information on all forms of giving on the website.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Dominic Edwardes then introduced the evening's speaker for the 33rd Annual Lecture, Francesca Simon, author of the best-selling Horrid Henry children's books.

**THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31st 2021**

**Review of the year**

The Trollope Society responded to the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic by cancelling our physical activities and developing a programme of online events. In October our AGM was held on Zoom. Francesca Simon, author of the bestselling series of Horrid Henry children's books, gave the Trollope Society's 33rd Annual Lecture on the subject of 'Anthony and Me'. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, towards our 'Pick Up A Trollope' (PUAT) campaign held in the Autumn. Members of the public were asked to choose their favourite novel from a selection of nine made by notable Trollopian authors. We received 1,200 votes from members of the public and 366 people registered for an online read of the winning novel, Barchester Towers. In February we received a further small grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to support our online activities until the end of March 2021. We held several talks, including 'Julian Fellowes in conversation with Gyles Brandreth', which proved to be our most successful online event to date. We went on to read Doctor Thorne on Zoom, which attracted 250 participants. Over the last year our online activities have proved successful. We have seen an increase in donations, membership, and sales of books.

**Plans for the future**

As we move out of the pandemic we will cautiously restart our physical meetings. We will continue to offer an online programme alongside these. We hope to be able to hold a dinner and reschedule the postponed Trip to Florence as soon as it is prudent to do so. Following the success of the production of the Barchester tea-towel and map we plan to introduce a range of merchandise to be sold via our online shop.

**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 2021**

	Notes	2021	2020
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	9	11,874	19,874
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	8,195	6,093
Cash at bank	10	<u>105,152</u>	<u>87,551</u>
		<u>113,346</u>	<u>93,644</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due</b>			
within one year	12	<u>-48,952</u>	<u>-53,663</u>
Net current assets		<u>64,394</u>	<u>39,981</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>76,268</u>	<u>59,855</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>			
Loan of indefinite duration (non interest bearing)		-10,000	-10,000
Provision for unexpired subscriptions		<u>-10,954</u>	<u>-7,862</u>
		<u>-20,954</u>	<u>-17,862</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	13	<u>55,314</u>	<u>41,992</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted	14	53,543	40,221
Designated	15	<u>1,771</u>	<u>1,771</u>
<b>Net funds</b>		<u>55,314</u>	<u>41,992</u>

**THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Trollopiana and Promotion	10,750	11,146
Movement of Stock	8,000	2,000
Promotion and Public Relations	5,492	2,000
Administration	5,686	4,931
Accommodation	0	0
Office Expenses	2,057	1,975
Management Expenses	0	447
Postage	1,431	378
Bank and credit card charges	886	932
Members' events	11,000	9,774
Annual general meeting	0	266
Accountancy	595	565
Storage and despatch	2,043	1,071
Production	60	0
	48,000	35,485
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	11,513	10,681
Gift aid - subscriptions	2,019	1,525
Donations and gift aid thereon	22,300	5,198
Income from goods and services	4,182	4,048
Sales of Trollope novels	8,930	3,367
Sale of other books		
Members Events		10,373
Lottery Grant for Dr Thorne	1,770	
Lottery for Pick up a Trollope	6,500	
Interest receivable	702	666
Other sales	3,406	332
	61,322	36,190
Surplus for the year	13,322	705

**THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

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I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 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 Act

have 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: