



*Advancing
Astronomy and
Geophysics*

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Burlington House, Piccadilly
London W1J 0BQ, UK

T: 020 7734 4582/ 3307

F: 020 7494 0166

Info@ras.org.uk

www.ras.org.uk

Registered Charity 226545

C(2014/12)/2.1

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th October 2014

PRESENT

Professor Martin Barstow, Professor Mike Cruise, Professor Ian Crawford, Dr Mandy Bailey, Professor Lyndsay Fletcher, Professor Gillian Foulger, Professor James Wild, Professor Richard Davis, Professor Andrew Norton, Professor Paul Murdin, Dr Helen Fraser, Mr Charlie Barclay, Dr Sarah Matthews, Professor Martin Bureau, Miss Jane MacArthur, Dr Geraint Jones, Professor John Brown, Dr Sheila Peacock, Dr Simon Mitton and Dr Stacey Habergham

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Pamela Mortimer (Executive Secretary) and Dr Robert Massey (Deputy Executive Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Professor Mike Edmunds.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The President welcomed everyone to Burlington House and offered a very warm welcome to Dr Stacey Habergham who was attending Council for the first time.

2. MINUTES (& MATTERS ARISING)

The Executive Secretary explained that errors in the attendance in the minutes for the Council meeting held in June during NAM had been corrected in the electronic version circulated to Council members. It was noted that Council would be provided with detailed proposals on how the Society should commemorate the 100th anniversary of election of women to fellowship in December 2014.

The minutes of the meeting of 13th June were approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

3.1 European matters

The President summarised efforts by Professor David Southwood to consolidate arrangements for managing Astronomy European with the European Astronomical Society over the summer. He will now take over the lead in this matter. Discussions would continue that evening as Andreas Burkett the President of the Astronomische Gesellschaft was presenting at the Ordinary meeting and attending the RAS Club dinner with Prof Southwood and the President. It was noted that a letter from the EAS to its members would be issued in the near future.

3.2 Other matters

The President noted that the current science minister, David Willetts had been supportive of astronomy and helped protect funding lines. It was agreed that it would be imperative for the Society to engage with politicians in the run up to the general election and deliberations on a Comprehensive Spending Review in the new Parliament.

It was noted that the opportunity to propose members for the International Astronomical Union would be in the next few months and that the Society should overtly support this process.

4. TREASURER'S BUSINESS

The Treasurer introduced his report.

Audit Outcomes 2013

Council were reminded that the Society received an unqualified audit in May 2014. Council noted that the external auditors, Buzzacott, audited the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme accounts for 2013 in July 2014, the Society received a minor qualification in the audit opinion as the Society had not "in all material respects" met its commitments to the Pension Regulator. This audit was filed with the Pension regulator on time on July 31^s 2014. .

The Treasurer explained how this minor indiscretion had arisen; in short pension trustees had agreed not to make a scheduled payment to the fund as it was already in surplus, saving the Society around £40K. Following discussion, Buzzacott's agreed that the Society had properly taken professional advice and that the omission was in the best interests of the charity as a whole and therefore was not a sufficient transgression to require the Pension Regulator to be informed.

It was noted that most pension schemes with no active members and a surplus sufficient to cover their liabilities would be seeking advice on whether it is better to wind them up. The Treasurer will seek professional advice from Broadstones, the RAS pension advisers, on this matter during 2015.

ACTION: TREASURER

Staff Changes since May 2014

Council discussed the staff changes since May 2014. It was noted that:

- The previous accountant, Anne Starrs, left on the 11th July 2014. Mr. Kyriakides had been recommended by the Societies external auditors, Buzzacott, he started work on the 14th July 2014.
- He is tasked with undertaking the regular financial work and with providing advice to the Treasurer and Executive Secretary on how the Society should improve its internal procedures and how to provide better management information.
- Options for the recruitment of a permanent account/book keeper are still under consideration. Recruitment is likely to take place in the autumn.
- As the Societies accounts need to be prepared between December 2014 and mid-March 2015 the Society is likely to retain the services of Mr Kyriakides through to May 2015 to see the 2014 audit completed. Council approved this approach.

Autumn grants round

Council noted that the Society had received 49 grant applications, of these, 39 were funded or part funded at a total expenditure of £27,337.

Council were reminded that the Outreach and Education Committee has an annual budget of £5K. Six of the grant applications (for educational work (totalling £20,480) were for educational projects. It was agreed that these proposals should be considered by the Education Committee so that a more informed judgement can be made over the whole portfolio of their activities.

It was agreed that if the Education and Outreach Committee (or a sub group) would consider the proposals out of Committee and that if they were convinced of the merit of proposals that would exceed their £5K budget that they could return to Council seeking approval for further funds.

Council noted that two of the grant applications had been for small conference support and a total of £3k had been awarded to these, following the formula agreed by Council in 2013.

Finance Committee

The Treasurer updated Council on the deliberations of the Finance Committee that had met on 10th September 2014. The Committee had discussed developments on audits, the replacement account and planning for the next audit, internal financial reporting and our investment portfolio. The Committee had expressed itself content with the new staffing situation and the audit outcomes. One member of the committee has requested very substantial amounts of additional information concerning the internal running of the Society's finances and almost all of these requests have now been met, with the delivery of the remainder that can be supplied being planned for December Finance Committee meeting.

It was noted that the Society has a large cash surplus currently that should be invested. The Finance Committee will consider this further at a meeting in December; various investment options will be considered.

It was noted that the Finance will meet more frequently, approximately every three months, to provide advice on the many matters raised under this item.

Operations Plan

Council were reminded that the Operations Plan is the main, medium to long term, planning tool for the Society. It was noted that work was ongoing towards improving this reporting by more directly linking the financial computer system SAGE to the Operations plan. The treasurer thanked Dr Sheila Peacock for her insightful scrutiny of the plan.

He reminded Council that the forecast for income from publication is decreased over the coming years following decisions taken by Council in 2013 to reduce publications costs to the 'Rest of the World' (i.e., the market outside Europe and America) and correct the previous approach that print only subscriptions were less than electronic only subscriptions.

It was noted that the Society was in the process of re-evaluating its heritage assets and that this would impact the balance sheet. Dr Simon Mitton (Chair of the Library Committee) advised that the value of the rare books held by the Society were also probably underestimated by at least 50%.

Financial Status of the Society

Council noted the Financial and Legal status of the Society and specifically that:

- Reserves on August 31st were RAS £6,010,497.05 and Paneth £303,201.31. These datum points had been provided at the start of the academic year to provide a reference point for Council members throughout the year.
- The Troughton Telescope is being put into safe storage pending a decision on its future. This will cost about £1300 a year with an initial packing charge of about £1000.
- A lot of cash was being carried at the moment and as previously mentioned the Finance Committee will consider options in December 2014.
- Discussions on lease renewal are ongoing. The rental charge for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 have been provided; whilst significant higher than previous years they still represent a very much reduced rental cost over commercial rates, affordable at this stage by the RAS. It was noted that Council will need to engage more closely in these matters following lease renewal in 2015

5. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

5.1 Governance

The Executive Secretary briefed Council on staff matters and governance changes planned for 2014/2015.

A Staff

The Executive Secretary reminded Council that they approved the creation of four new positions as set out in the staff structure review. Council noted the information provided on these posts, incumbents and deliverables expected for 2014/2015.

B. Review of the RAS Byelaws

Council was reminded that:

- The management of sensitive HR matters over the past year has demonstrated that the current RAS byelaws are not fit for purpose.
- They had agreed that a full review of the byelaws should be undertaken and presented for approval by the Fellowship at the AGM in May 2015.
- A small working group, Professor Paul Murdin, the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary, have drafted a revised set of byelaws.

It was noted that a special Council meeting will be held on 14th November 2014 to consider the proposed revisions and debate ramifications. Legal advice will be sought on a near final draft.

C. Herschel House Trust

Council were reminded in March 2014 they had agreed in principal with the proposal for Bath Preservation Trust (BPT) to become the sole trustee of the Herschel House Trust (HHT) and take on full responsibility for the governance of the Herschel Museum of Astronomy and that the Society would make a five figure donation to set the HHT on a firmer financial footing.

Council noted that:

- BPT had appointed a Director of the HHT in July 2014 and this has brought seen governance improvements.
- The Executive Secretary had signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Bath Preservation Trust and other trustees of the Herschel House Trust in September 2014. The MOU sets out the objectives of the HHT Trustees in moving to a new form of governance and the management and delivery framework for the Herschel House Trust and Herschel Museum of Astronomy.
- The legal process for the transfer is expected to take 9 months to a year to complete.

5.2 Role of a Trustee

Eddie Finch, Senior Partner from Buzzacott, provided a brief on the Roles and Responsibilities of RAS Trustees and engaged in a question and answer session. This session was well received.

Professor Paul Murdin expressed his concern that the language used in the audit opinion and documentation provided by Buzzacott was not explicit.

POST COUNCIL NOTE: The Treasurer will discuss this matter further with Buzzacott at the next regular meeting.

On behalf of Council, the President thanked Eddie Finch for his useful presentation and discussion session.

5.3 Outlook: RAS Library

Council considered a paper by Sian Prosser the RAS librarian and archivist who took up post in May 2014.

a) Clearing of the Annexe

Council noted the work plan for 2014/15, including the following key deliverables:

- Work to continue to identify unwanted journals for disposal, with the aim of disposing of a further 75 m of unwanted journals by February 2014, using previously agreed funds.
- The Librarian and Library committee will review and further develop the 2012 plan, setting milestones and timescale for clearing the Annexe. This review will be concluded by March 2015.
- Following the review there may be a requirement for outside storage of items from the Annexe that the Society may wish to retain. If required a costed option will be provided in to Council for consideration.

It was noted that whilst progress continues to be made to clear the Annexe Council needs to agree a long term plan for use of this space.

b) Security and preservation of the RAS library, archive and artefact collections:

Council noted the improvements made so far and noted that the following is planned for **2014/15:**

- Additional security will be added to the doors of the Spencer Room and Archives Room, fitting a five lever mortise lock according to recommendations in British Standard PD5454, (funds previously agreed in 2012.)
- CCTV will be implemented in the Library using existing circuits, with due consideration of appropriate data management and impact on civil liberties of library users, (funds previously agreed in 2012)

Council agreed that a preservation assessment survey of the key historic collections in the Spencer Room should be carried out, likely cost £2000.

c) **Improvement of researcher experience in Burlington House:**

Council noted improvements made so far and agreed that the following:

- Continuation of the arrangement of 20 hours a month assistance from the Library Assistant to reorganise journal collections in the basement Archive room.
- As recommended and agreed in 2012, improvements to the lighting in the reading room, with a costed proposal to be approved by the Treasurer.
- A survey should be carried out to find out more about the expectations of the Fellowship for the Library and what they would like it to provide. (The RAS 2014 Diversity Questionnaire was a success, and now that the Society has purchased the software, it will be possible to use it again. The cost will not exceed £500 incl. VAT.)
- Funds approved in 2012 to be used to support an 8 week summer internship. The Library intern could work on vital projects, such as retrospective cataloguing of reserve books from the Annexe that have been re-designated as part of the core historic collection.

d) **Outreach and other activities**

Council noted the welcome progress in using the library for outreach activities and plans for 2014/15. Since installation in May 2014 the secure and environmentally controlled display cases have displayed a different set of library materials every month, including September when they were viewed by 178 visitors as part of Open House London. In the future, changing content can reflect RAS events/anniversaries e.g. evening Public Lectures.

5.4 RAS nominations for external awards

The President introduced this item. It was agreed that the Society needs to become more proactive in inviting and making nominations for external awards including National Honours. It was agreed that a working group consisting of the President, Executive Secretary and Chairpersons from the A and G Awards Committee should be established to agree a way forward.

ACTION : Executive Secretary

5.5 Arrangements for NAM 2015

Council noted that the Executive Secretary, Treasurer and 'A' Secretary A have visited Venue **Cymru**, Llandudno, to scope the possibility of holding NAM 2015 there. NAM 2011 had been held in this venue.

It was noted that :

- The 2011 NAM was highly successful due to the excellent facilities and extremely efficient management at Llandudno and the package being offered by Venue **Cymru** for 2015 was good value.
- The Venue is available Sunday 5th July until lunchtime on Thursday 9th July 2015. If approved, the Opening drinks party could be held on the Sunday evening with lectures starting at 9am on the Monday, providing 3 ½ days for the scientific programme.

- Professor Mike Edmunds (VP(A)) stands ready to head up the Scientific Organising Committee (SOC), he was the SOC chair in 2011.

Council discussed options to reduce conference fees and agreed:

- That the Society provides an extra £12k (in addition to the normal £15k funding) to keep the registration fees the same as those for NAM 2014
- It was agreed that rates for RAS members would be £184 (£102 for RAS student member) and £235/£240 for non-members)

It was agreed Dr Mandy Bailey would be appointed as the part-time single point of contact responsible directly to the Executive Secretary to provide the necessary coordination between Burlington House and the management team at Venue Cymru. It is estimated that this task will require 20 to 30 full days. It was noted that the Charity Commission has agreed that any three members of Council (at any one time) can receive payments for tasks undertaken on behalf of the Society.

It was agreed that a calling notice should be issued to the Fellowship for institutions to host NAM in 2016 and that venues similar to Venue Cymru should be found as a back-up option.

ACTION : Executive Secretary

5.6 Proposal for joint membership of the Geological Society and the RAS

The Executive Secretary introduced this item and reminded Council that they had discussed options to enhance Geophysics representation in the Society and had agreed that the President and Executive Secretary should open up discussions with the Geological Society of London (GSL) with a view to agreeing reduced subscriptions for those who are Fellows of both the RAS and GSL. Currently RAS Fellows who are also members of the Institute of Physics receive a 25% reduction on both their subscriptions; it was agreed that a similar concession should be negotiated.

Following a positive introductory meeting, led by the President, on the morning of the AGM in May 2014, the Executive Secretary met with her counterpart at GSL in late summer to discuss the practicalities of such a proposal.

Agreement in principle was made for a 25% discount to be applied to the membership fees for those with joint membership.

Council discussed the practicalities of this proposal and agreed:

- That individuals with membership of both the RAS and the Geological Society of London (GSL) should receive 25% discount on annual fees. This should be implemented in year and the AGM advised in May 2015. The membership secretaries from the two organisations should implement this proposal.

The Executive Secretaries of GSL and RAS had also discussed other ways in which the two Societies can work better together, such as by arranging shared meetings. Council members were asked to propose potential topics that could be discussed at a joint RAS/GSL member in 2015, GSL's annotated Year of Mud, and 2016, GSL's annotated Year of Water.

ACTION : COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council were reminded of discussions at the strategic planning meeting back in June 2013 and Council deliberations thereafter on the need for the Society to be prepared to respond to probable changing demographics interested in becoming members of the Society as a result of increased engagement with society at large through outreach projects such as RAS 200: Sky and Earth. Council agreed that the membership committee be tasked with considering if additional membership categories are required now or in the coming few years in response to initiatives such as RAS 200: Sky and Earth. **ACTION : Membership Committee**

It was noted that GSL have a more robust procedure in regard to collecting annual subscriptions. It was agreed that the membership committee should review the existing process considering best practice from other organisations. **ACTION : Membership Committee**

5.7 Update: building works in Burlington House

Council noted the update on plans to install a reception window in Burlington House. Over the last few months the Office, Awards and Events manager has been working with the architects, Househam Henderson Architects to determine what level of planning permission was required.

Council were reminded that a budget of £44.4K (£38.5K including construction work, architects fees, planning fees, VAT and a 15% contingency fund) has been set aside for this project. Final quotes will be received once approval by Westminster Council has been given. Council will be provided with an update in December 2014.

ACTION: Executive Secretary

6. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Update on RAS 200: Sky and Earth

The Deputy Executive Secretary updated Council on key events in the RAS 200: Sky and Earth programme. It was noted that:

- Dr Sheila Kanani took up her post at the beginning of September and is the main RAS staff contact for the project.
- A Stakeholder Meeting took place in July, with members of the RAS 200 Steering Group and representatives from 44 organisations in attendance. Delegates were briefed on the aims of the programme and discussed ways in which they might participate. Contact details, notes of and presentations from the meeting have been circulated to attendees. The meeting was also covered in an article in the October edition of A&G.
- A Regional ‘town hall’ meetings programme is being developed. The main purpose of these meetings will be to brief and then encourage local organisations (e.g. third sector groups and science centres) to work with local Fellows to form consortia and create project proposals. One or more members of the Steering Group will be present at each

event. Fellows who live and / or work in the vicinity of each venue have also been invited to attend the respective meetings.

The following timetable for the first round of grants was noted:

- 1 December 2014: Applications open for the first round of outline proposals
- 2 February 2015: Deadline for outline proposal applications
- 16 February 2015: First meeting of grants panel, where a maximum of 12 proposals will be selected and applicants will be invited to submit full applications
- (By) 2 March 2015: Consortia receive notification of the result of their application
- 10 April 2015: Deadline for full proposal applications
- 24 April 2015: Grants panel meet to select up to 6 projects for funding
- 8 May 2015: 'Winners' announced at RAS AGM

The grants panel will consist of Prof Steve Miller, Dr Mandy Bailey, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE and a number of external panellists, details to be confirmed. The Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretary and Education, Outreach and Diversity Officer will also attend.

Council were reminded that Information and relevant materials (including the outline application form) can be found on the RAS website at www.ras.org.uk/200

6.2 Consultations: for information

- a) Labour Party green paper on science
- b) RCUK Open Access policy: Independent Review of Implementation
- c) BIS Science and Innovation Strategy

The Deputy Executive Secretary thanked Council members for comments received over the summer on the above three consultations.

Council discussed continuing concerns around the implementation of the RCUK policy on Open Access. The President advised that he would be attending a RCUK meeting soon.

POST COUNCIL NOTE: The President, Deputy Executive Secretary and Editorial Office manager attended the RCUK open access oral evidence session at the Royal Society on the 15th October 2014.

6.3 Consultations: for discussion

The Deputy Executive Secretary reminded Council that the deadline for submission of comments to the UK Space Agency: National Strategy for Space Environments and Human Spaceflight consultation was the 17th October 2014 and to provide him with any further comments.

7. PUBLICATIONS

7.1 Update on journal submission rates

Council were grateful for the update provided by the Editorial Office Manager and noted that:

- Digital printing is now used in both RAS journals : MNRAS has been digital since 1st July 2014 (issue 441/3) and GJI has been digital since August 2014, (issue 198/2.)
- Submissions rates continue to increase to both journals.
- As this trend continues, the Editorial Office manager will monitor the workloads of existing staff (currently heavy workload for all staff and holiday cover can be a problem) and advise if an additional member of staff would be required to maintain fast turn-around times and avoid backlogs.

7.2 PMC minutes

Council noted the minutes of the Publications Management Committee held on the 3rd April 2014. The Treasurer advised that a regular briefing meeting with OUP was scheduled for 24th October.

Dr Sheila Peacock informed Council that the Geological Society has incorporated ethical sample collection into their code of ethics for publishing. In addition to signing up to the Code of Publishing Ethics, authors will have to conform that samples used for data or illustrations in articles must have been collected in a responsible manner in compliance with the Geologists' Association Geological Fieldwork Code

It was noted that the GJI Editors had given initial consideration to how applicable this was to GJI submissions and did not think it was relevant. Dr Peacock will discuss further with her colleagues and revert to the GJI Editor if there is a need for further deliberations.

ACTION: Dr Sheila Peacock

8. OTHER

8.1 Update on RAS Awards 2015

Council noted the final membership of the awards committees 2014 (see below) and the timetable. They discussed a proposal to change the rubric for Honorary Fellows. Currently overseas fellows are not eligible for honorary fellowship.

'Honorary Fellowships may be awarded to any foreign national based overseas, eminent in the fields of astronomy or geophysics, providing they are not already a Fellow of the Society'.

It was agreed that a short paper on this proposal would be considered by Council in December 2014.

ACTION: Award Committee Chairs

Final membership of Awards Committees 2014

'A' Awards Committee

(Astronomy excluding planetary science)

Professor A. Norton (Chair)

Dr M. Bailey ('A' Secretary)

Dr P. Murdin (Council Member)

Dr H. Fraser (Council Member)

Professor M. Ward (previous Awards Committee member, second time)
Professor D. Ward-Thompson (new Committee member)
Professor C. Crawford (new Committee member)
Professor I. Baraffe (new Committee member)

'G' Awards Committee

(Geophysics and planetary science)

Professor G. Foulger (Chair)

Dr L. Fletcher ('G' Secretary)

Dr S. Matthews (Council Member)

Dr S. Peacock (Council Member)

Dr S. Dalla (previous Awards Committee member, third and final time)

Dr M. Freeman (previous Awards Committee member, second time)

Professor T. Lay (new Committee member)

Professor M. Fowler (new Committee member)

8.2 Update: RAS Research Fellowships 2015

Council noted that the Society will award two RAS Research Fellowships to start in 2015. And that the 2015 Research Fellowship Awards Committee will be chaired by Vice President, Jim Wild

He will be supported by :

Prof Hilary Downes, Birkbeck/UCL, solid earth and meteorites

Prof Clare Parnell, St Andrews, solar and plasmas

Dr Martin Bureau, University of Oxford, formation and evolution of galaxies

Dr David Sing, University of Exeter, planetary/exoplanet

Professor Bill Chapman, University of Birmingham

The President expressed his thanks to Professor Wild for taking on the role of Chair, he had stood down due to a conflict of interest.

Council noted the status of ongoing RAS Research Fellowships and Norman Lockyer Fellowships (below) and the reports provided by recipients:

2010 Fellows

- Ben Davies: November 2010-October 2013. Final year of Fellowship transferred to Liverpool John Moores University (previously University of Cambridge). Final report received 2014.
- Catriona Jackman: January 2013-December 2013. Final report received.

2011 Fellows

- Baojiu Li: October 2011-September 2014. Final report due January 2015.
- Aline Vidotto: October 2011-September 2014. Final report due January 2015.
- Dr Adam Christopherson (Norman Lockyer Fellow): October 2011-September 2014. Final report due January 2015.

2012 Fellows

- Sarah Badman: Lancaster University - March 2013-February 2016: Interim report received
- Nick Wright: University of Herts - October 2012-September 2015: Interim report received 2013.
- Leigh Fletcher, withdrawn as awarded a Fellowship by the Royal Society, funding transferred to 2013 RAS Research Fellowships.

2013 Fellows

- Dr Richard Parker: Liverpool John Moores University - March 2014-March 2017: Interim report due March 2015.
- Dr John Armitage: University of London - September 2013-September 2016: Interim report received September 2014.

2014 Fellows

- Rowan Smith: Norman Lockyer Fellowship: University of Manchester - September 2014 – September 2017: Interim report due September 2015.
- Dr Aurélie Guilbert-Lepoutre: RAS Fellowship: University of Kent - September 2014 – September 2017: Interim report due September 2015.

8.3 American Astronomical Society meeting January 2015

It was noted that OUP and the Society will again sponsor a free drinks reception for RAS Fellows and invited guests on the evening of Wednesday 7th January 2015 during the American Astronomical Society Winter Meeting in Seattle, <http://aas.org/meetings/aas225>

The drinks party will proceed the RAS Gold Medal lecture that will be given by Professor Carlos Frenks, (Ogden Professor of Fundamental Physics, Durham University, UK).

8.4 Officers Reports.

Council noted the Officers report and approved the following for Fellowship:

Surname	First Name	Town/ University	Sponsor
Barrufet de Soto	Laia	Oxford	Stephen Serjeant
Berry	Christopher	Worcester	Ilya Mandel
Blake	Simon	Tyne & Wear	P.M. Chadwick
Boardman	Nicholas	St. Andrews	Anne-Marie Weijmans
Caprotti	Andrea	Milan, Italy	Andrew Norton
Carter	Paul	Birmingham	Yvonne Elsworth
Fellows	Victoria	Cowes, Isle of Wight	Mandy Bailey
Graham	Mark	Brixham	Andrew Norton
Hales	Christopher	Newtown	Andrew Fletcher

Hasan	Ayjaz	University of Kent	Stacey Habergham
Heras	Ricardo	UCL	Duncan R. Lorimer
Herrera Martin	Antonio	Glasgow	Graham Woan
Ihongo	Grace	University of Aberdeen	James A. Reid
Joachimi	Benjamin	UCL	Prof Ofer Lahav
Jones	Caitlin	The University of Birmingham	Prof. William Chaplin
Llewellyn	Jayne	Merthyr Tydfil	Andrew Norton
Moore	James	University of Oxford	Barry Parsons
Mulroy	Sarah	University of Birmingham	Graham P. Smith
Norris	Charlotte	London	Yvonne C. Unruh
Rowe	Barnaby	London	Dr Donnacha Kirk
Smith	Andrew	Southampton	Catriona Jackman
Steel	Simon	UCL	Adam W. Burnley
Swalwell	William	Wigan	Silvia Dalla
Topal	Selcuk	Christchurch College, Oxford	Martin Bureau
Wright	Paul J.	University of Glasgow	Iain Hannah

The following were proposed and confirmed Fellows on 8th August 2014 by an 'election by email'. (Please note: those listed as sponsored by 'Membership Committee' applied through route 2).

Surname	First Name	Town/ University	Sponsor
Andress	Colin	Romford	Andrew Norton
Ashong	Jacob	London	Francisco Diego
Buckingham	David	Cambridge	Andrew Norton
Ellis	David	Bairnsdale, Australia	Membership Committee
Finn	Charles	Durham University	Simon Morris
Foote	Peter	Monmouth	Ninian G. Boyle
Fortes	Andrew	UCL	I.A. Crawford
Hawking	Lucy	London	Ian Ridpath
Jah	Moriba	Cedar Crest, USA	Prof. Marek Ziebart
Lavender	Mandy	Kettering	Rebecca Stimson
Leonard	Adrienne	University College London	Filipe Batoni Abdalla
Lewis	Wendy	Maidstone	Andrew Norton
Lines	Stefan	Yatton	Steven Phillipps
Lucas	Philip	University of Hertfordshire	Martin J Hardcastle
MacKintosh	Grant	St. Austell	Nik Szymanek
MacKintosh	Kim	St. Austell	Nik Szymanek
Matthews	James	University of Southampton	Prof. Ian McHardy
Mohan	Kirthika	MSSL	Dr Colin Forsyth
Moseley	Terence	Newton Abbey	M.E. Bailey
Orfali	Lorenzo	Selwyn College, Cambridge	C. Barclay
Palmer	Gary	Rhayader, Powys	Peter Williamson
Pawlik	Milena	St. Andrews	Vivienne Wild

Ryder-Jarvis	Matthew	Epping	Karl Webb
Salvage	Rebecca	University of Leeds	RA Clark
Sood	Aditi	University of Sheffield	Dr Eun-jin Kim
Thomas	Jeremy	Whiteley	Karen Masters
Vecchio	Alberto	University of Birmingham	Yvonne Elsworth
Wotherspoon	Jason	Cardiff	Prof. Paul Roche

9. AOB

9.1 International Year of Light 2015

The Deputy Executive Secretary updated Council on plans for the International Year of Light (IYOL) 2015. In the UK activities are led by the Institute of Physics and the RAS is a partner on the IOP-convened IYOL National Committee. Further information can be obtained via the website <http://light2015.org.uk> that will go live in late November 2014.

The IYOL Education and Outreach subcommittees are working on schools and public engagement activities related to light. Their plans include the development of a schools pack and curriculum resources for the use of light in science and technology (from astronomy to biology and photonics), a competition inviting the public to suggest citizen science projects and support for light-related activities at the STFC laser roadshow due to tour the UK next year. The RAS Education, Outreach and Diversity Officer is a member of both of these committees and will help judge the citizen science proposals.

Internationally, the IAU is endorsing and supporting IYOL activities that relate to astronomy, such as the Galileo Teacher Training project and the photographic exhibition led by RAS Fellow Gary Evans described below.

The Executive Secretary advised that she was working with the Royal Photographical Society to arrange for them to use the courtyard at Burlington House to exhibit 50 mounted photographs, that provide ‘a visual journey through the electromagnetic spectrum from gamma rays to radio, showing how EM radiation (‘light’) is used to benefit humanity through science, medicine and technology, ’ as part of celebrations surrounding the International Year of Light. Council would be provided with an update in December 2014.

ACTION: Executive Secretary

9.2 RAS Research Fellowship

Professor Andrew Norton advised that he had heard that Aurelie Guilbert-Lepoutre who had been offered a RAS Research Fellowship, to start in 2014, was not planning to take up the Fellowship. This message had not formally been conveyed to the Society.

POST COUNCIL NOTE: Aurelie Guilbert-Lepoutre has accepted a full time position at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique. Officers agreed that the funding for this Fellowship should be transferred to 2015, as such three RAS Research Fellowships will be offered in 2015.

Council rose at 3.20