

# MINUTES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands,

17 May 2009

1. About 60 voting members were present for the meeting, which was opened by the Chairman, Christopher St J H Daniel, at 12:50 pm. He started by thanking Douglas Bateman and Robert Sylvester for organising a most successful and enjoyable Conference, and then thanked the staff at the Hotel for the way they had looked after us. He expressed again his appreciation for all who had attended, most particularly those who had given the talks, and those who had come from overseas.



2. No apologies for absence had been received.

3. The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held at the Latimer Conference Centre, Buckinghamshire, had been published in the Bulletin of June 2008, were taken as read, and were approved by a show of hands. There were no matters arising and the minutes were adopted.

#### 4. Council Member's Reports

The reports of the Honorary Secretary and other members of Council had been circulated with the Conference papers, and are shown below.

**Secretary: Doug Bateman.** *Liaison.* Since the last AGM I have dealt with 7 enquiries by letter, a few more by e-mail, and half a dozen by telephone. Many have sought advice about dials in their possession. A number have been about restoration, and these were referred to Graham Aldred. Whilst we are helping to 'educate the public' as part of our charitable status, few of the enquiries have led to membership. Two queries came from the National Trust.



A potential line of research has arisen about a dial from Ballyin, Ireland, now in Georgia, USA: it is a slate dial and Michael Harley is assisting.

**Editor: John Davis.** The major event this year has been the move to new printers for the *Bulletin*. This has allowed us to enhance to a full colour production, including the covers. At the same time, a 'poly-bag' delivery system has meant that there is no overall increase in cost. I am grateful to John Lester for all his work on proof reading and, of course, to all the authors for their contributions.



The New Author Award has been made for a third year, this time to Robin Catchpole for his article on the *Solar Pyramid*.

Two new monographs have been published; *Mass Dials on Yorkshire Churches* by Alan Cook, and *A Study of Altitude Dials* by Mike Cowham. These have been produced by a print-on-demand system which is both economical and convenient for our small print-runs. The latter title included colour illustrations and an enclosed CD-Rom. More titles are in the pipeline.

Some projects have been regrettably delayed, particularly the scanning of all the early issues of the *Bulletin* to produce an electronic and fully searchable archive. This remains on the 'back-burner' unless another member would like to help out.

**Membership: Jackie Jones.** I took over the role of Membership Secretary from John Foad last May and I must express my great thanks to him for his patience and help with my lack of computer skills over the year. Our membership now stands at 471 of which 332 are from the UK and 72 from Europe. 67 are from the rest of the world which includes members in Brazil, Russia, Mexico, Pakistan



and Japan as well as many from the USA, Canada and Australia. Over the last year we have welcomed 20 new members to the Society; unfortunately we have also said goodbye to some others, mainly due to old age or health reasons.

**Restoration: Graham Aldred.** Several sundial restorations are in progress although other restoration work tends to occur without being reported. The independent fund generously donated by David Young last year and aimed at church dials in the South East has been used up and four restorations have been funded. Restoration advice enquiries continue to be received, three are currently in the early stages. The process is slow often due to the requirement to satisfy various interested bodies like English Heritage or the Church Authorities. Funding has always been an issue particularly for local enthusiasts who have no clear route to any money. However at last the BSS can now help with a limited number of annual grants for up to half the cost. The details of the Grant Scheme are on the web site or available from me by e-mail or post. As requested last year members are urged to report any recent sundial restorations and report sundials that deserve some careful attention.



### Reference Library at Nottingham: Graham Aldred.

There is very little to report: ten books or pamphlets have been received. We have been given more shelf space and so the arrangement has become more satisfactory; discussions regarding the storage of the more valuable books are still ongoing. The Library is not used very much by Members, this is probably because there are so many alternative internet sources of exactly the same information which remove the incentive to visit the Library. The location in Nottingham may also be a difficulty and Council are considering possible relocation in London if the costs are acceptable. The current charges are £130 pa which still represents a very modest cost compared with commercial storage costs, especially given all the additional attributes of Bromley House.

### Fixed Dial Register: John Foad.



Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our members, well over 900 new reports have been entered in the last 12 months, with news of over 500 previously unrecorded dials. I am grateful to those who have sent in a report for just a single dial, but Tony Wood and Ian Butson must be particularly celebrated for having, over the years, now submitted no fewer than 1,000 reports each!

Dials sadly continue to be stolen, but pleasingly three have been recovered in the last year. Members who feel they may have spotted a suspect dial in an antique shop or elsewhere, can now refer to the list of stolen dials which is to be found on the Society's web site.

Noel Ta'Bois left a remarkable legacy of 35 mm transparencies, the result of intensive dial-hunting in the 1970s and '80s. Tony Wood has those with mass dials, and I have inherited some 1,500 slides of scientific dials. These have now been catalogued and will shortly be transferred to CD. They provide pictures for a large number of Register entries that are currently unillustrated, as well as recording many dials that never previously found their way to the Register at all. The CDs together with the catalogue will provide a valuable Society resource, and members will of course have access to them on request to me.

With the Society's copy of *MS Access*, which is used for the main Register, I have started to build a database of place names to be found on 'Geographical' dials, i.e. those which show the time of noon in a multitude of places around the world. Mainly horizontals and mostly dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, they provide an interesting insight into the key world locations of their time.

### Mass Dial Group: Tony Wood.



The agreement to archive the mass dial records at the Borthwick Institute, York, was confirmed during the year and this is now in hand. It is possible that some collaboration with the Department of Archaeology at York University can be arranged with possible assistance being made available for research.

The Mass Dial Register is now being entered and several counties have been compiled and are available as printed booklets. After reports for a county have been entered, they are deposited at York for archiving.

The counties so far compiled are: Rutland, Lancashire, Devon, Greater London, Scotland, Isle of Wight, Cornwall, Wales, Durham and Northumberland; with Annexes to Lincolnshire, S. Yorkshire and W. Yorkshire. (Lincolnshire and Yorkshire have been printed as separate sections of the Register; the Annexes comprise those records made by members other than the authors of those sections.)

Continental dials continue to appear and a complete French listing (no pictures) is now available. Certain aspects of delineation and distribution are the subject of research. All Continental dials received are filed but not further processed.

*Roman Dials.* A recent side issue has arisen with an enquiry about Roman dials in Britain. I have dealt with this but some Specialist assuming responsibility might be considered a better arrangement.

*Current work.* Chris Williams is publishing his statistical analysis of dials discovered and concludes that most have been found now. However, our recorders are still finding dials and it is important that new photographs are taken of existing reported dials. Chris Williams, Bill Linnard and myself gave a joint presentation about mass dials to the Wales and Marches Horological Society.

Special mention to Irene Brightmer, Ian Butson and John Lester with Margaret McKenzie in Wiltshire recently joining our efforts by taking decent pictures of her local dials and finding new ones in the process. Also to Alan Cook for his monograph on Yorkshire mass dials, currently part of the Register. Again, thanks to NADFAS for continuing to inform us of dials on churches that they are recording. The collection of over a thousand colour slides of mass dials taken by Noel Ta'Bois has been transferred to CD but has still to be classified and indexed. I hope that we can acquire further similar collections.

In conclusion, work is progressing on the Register and our understanding of these dials is slowly improving. My thanks to all Members who have contributed in some way over the past year.

**Saxon Dials: Tony Wood.** Mike Cowham is continuing his study of Saxon dials using the Mass Dial Register and report files. It has been decided that they will be called 'Saxon/Celtic' as the Irish and Welsh 'column dials' are contemporaneous. A Welsh example has been rediscovered at Towyn and the Society is hoping to arrange its removal to a more secure site.

**Museums Survey: Tony Wood and Ian Butson.** Following the request from Council that the results of the Museums Survey be published, this is being carried out by Ian Butson, who has prepared the text from the Survey Reply forms returned to me over the period 2003-2007. Additionally, Ian has prepared appendices covering makers and dial types. Jill Wilson is assisting Ian by proof checking (following her experience gained with the Biographical Index and other publications) and editing the layout. The

completed text is now on CD and Ian's and Jill's computers and I have a full printout. We three are currently proof checking with the aim of handing over to John Davis for publication as BSS Monograph No. 7 within a couple of months. Further museums information is now being consigned to a 'second edition' file.

**Website: Richard Mallett.** The existing website ([www.sundialsoc.org.uk](http://www.sundialsoc.org.uk)) is working well on the new host (AFMU) and is being kept updated, while the new website is currently being developed on one of the two 'spare' domains ([www.sundialsociety.org.uk](http://www.sundialsociety.org.uk)) which is currently password protected to hide it from the search engines while the new site is being developed. The usage statistics (monthly averages) for the current website are as follows:- unique visitors 2621; visits 3431; pages 13859; hits 51354; bandwidth 601 MB.



##### **5. Treasurer's Report: Graham Stapleton.**



The Treasurer had no points to raise that were not already covered in his written report (Accounts elsewhere with this issue), and there were no questions from the floor.

##### **6. Election of Officers.**

The Chairman thanked the retiring Secretary, Douglas Bateman, for his valuable service to the Society over the last ten years. Graham Aldred had volunteered to fill the position.

The Chairman then proposed that Richard Mallett, our webmaster, be appointed a Trustee, to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of the Secretary. Nominations for all posts, including that of Graham Aldred as Secretary, had been proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations from the floor, the following were approved by a show of hands, and the Chairman declared them duly elected.

*Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.* Chris Daniel, Graham Aldred and Graham Stapleton respectively.

*Members of Council.* Jackie Jones, John Davis, John Foad, Richard Mallett and Patrick Powers.

*Audit.* Geoff Parsons audited the accounts for 2008, and had kindly agreed to do so again for this year. His appointment was approved at the meeting by a show of hands.

##### **7. Any Other Business**

No points of 'Other Business' were raised, and the Chairman closed the meeting at 1:00 pm.



**BSS PUBLICATION SALES LIST**  
(September 2009)

DAVIS, John: <i>Sundial Glossary - A sourcebook of dialling data</i> (revised & expanded 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition) (EU £18.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £20.00)	UK £16.00
WALKER, Jane: <i>Make a Sundial</i> (revised 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition with colour photographs) (EU £8.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £10.00)	UK £7.50
STANIER, M. <i>Oxford Sundials</i> (revised & expanded 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition with 24 colour plates) (EU £8.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £10.00)	UK £7.50
LE CONTE, David & Dorothy: <i>Guernsey Sundials</i> . 18 sundials on Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. (EU £8.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £10.00)	UK £7.50
STANIER, M. & BROOKES, Alexis: <i>Cambridge Sundials</i> , (with 29 colour plates) (EU £8.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £10.00)	UK £7.50
WILSON, Jill: <i>Biographical Index of British Sundial Makers from the Seventh century to 1920</i> . Monograph No. 2. (EU £18.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £20.00)	UK £16.00
FOLKARD, M. & WARD, J: <i>Sundials Australia</i> (EU £15.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £17.00)	UK £14.50
MARTIN, C: <i>A Celebration of Cornish Sundials</i> . (EU £6.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £7.00)	UK £5.00
<i>Mrs Crowley's Sundial Sketchbook of Devon &amp; Cornwall</i> (EU £19.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £21.00)	UK £17.00
COOK: <i>Mass Dials in Yorkshire Churches</i> (Monograph No. 3) (EU £8.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £10.00)	UK £7.50
COWHAM: <i>Altitude Dials</i> BSS Monograph No. 4. (EU £15.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £17.00)	UK £14.50
ARNALDI: <i>The Ancient Sundials of Ireland</i> (now in stock) (EU £8.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £10.00)	UK £7.50
<b>BSS Bulletins:</b> back issues can be purchased at £3.50 each or £7.00 for three issues. Some issues are out of print but can be purchased on CD-ROM for printing. Please enquire for bulk orders or for posting abroad.	
CD-ROM - out of print issues (only) of <i>BSS Bulletins</i> (EU £19.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £21.00)	UK £17.00
<b>BINDER</b> for <i>Bulletins</i> . Yellow with BSS emblem on spine. Holds up to 12 issues. (EU £7.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £9.00)	UK £6.50
YOUNG, David: <i>Sundial Constructor</i> computer programme diskette (EU £8.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £9.50)	UK £8.00
<i>Sundial Slides:</i> sets of 6 in colour. Basic theory; early historical; early British Dials; dial types. 3 sets covering many modern and some well-known traditional dials. (EU £6.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £7.50)	UK £6.00
<i>Mass Dials of Lincolnshire:</i> CD-ROM (EU £19.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £21.00)	UK £17.00

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# BSS ACCOUNTS

		<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
		2007	2008	2007	2008
<b>General</b>					
	Subscriptions (1)	£12,789.59	£11,380.55	Subscriptions	£73.00      £0.00
	Gift Aid (2)	£0.00	£1,796.53	Bulletin (5)	£7,921.97      £9,198.87
	Publications (6)	£0.00	£486.97	Publications (6)	£787.00      £2,034.23
				Officers (7)	£3,499.07      £3,345.26
<b>Events</b>					
	Cambridge 2007	£12,065.10	£0.00	Cambridge 2007	£15,473.80      £0.00
	Alsace 2008	£0.00	£16,926.03	Alsace 2008	£0.00      £16,706.21
	Latimer 2008 (8)	£380.00	£13,708.00	Latimer 2008 (8)	£0.00      £16,703.79
	Grange/Sands 2009	£0.00	£0.00	Grange/Sands 2009	£150.00      £0.00
				Exeter 2010	£0.00      £1,000.00
<b>Sales etc</b>					
	Sales (9)	£2,335.70	£2,328.57	Sales (9)	£154.17      £192.26
	Auction (13)	£0.00	£527.00	Auction (13)	£0.00      £0.00
	Advertising (3)	£10.00	£25.00	Advertising (3)	£0.00      £509.03
	Donations (Somerville) (13)	£190.00	£2,157.60	Donations (Somerville) (13)	£500.00      £0.00
				Library (10)	£236.16      £130.00
				Internet (11)	£0.00      £249.25
<b>Finance</b>					
	<b>Bequests</b>	£0.00	£2,000.00		
	Interest	£3,153.93	£3,244.39	Banking/Insurance (12)	£712.46      £766.31
<b>Special</b>					
	Design Competition	£0.00	£0.00	Design Awards	£0.00      £0.00
				Photo competition	£0.00      £96.29
<b>Other</b>					
	Offprints	£0.00	£0.00	Offprints	£0.00      £0.00
	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	Misc	£0.00      £145.00
	St. Katherine Cree Fund (4)	£0.00	£0.00	St. Katherine Cree Fund (4)	£0.00      £0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>£30,924.32</b>	<b>£52,580.64</b>		<b>£29,507.63      £51,076.50</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>£1,416.69</b>	<b>£1,504.14</b>		

## Notes for 2008

1. Balance held in the U.S.A. Amounts paid in US dollars have been converted to sterling at the exchange rate in force: on 31/12/2007, when notified of balance, or when sums were repatriated.
2. Gift Aid for 2007 was received in the year 2008. That for 2008 will be received in 2009.
3. Advertising income for adverts in the Bulletin & Newsletter, expenses for Society publicity in other journals etc.
4. These donations, held on behalf of the St. Katherine Cree Sundial Restoration Fund, are **not** part of the BSS assets.
5. Four editions paid for in the year. Includes postage costs.
6. Printing of the publication(s): Mrs. Crowley, Yorkshire Mass Dials, Altitude Dials
7. Includes postage, leaflets, travel, computing sundries, meeting room costs etc. £604.86 of which is late claims
8. Advance deposit for the 2008 Conference and early payments from members.
9. Sales of booklets, sweatshirts, slides, ties etc by Peter Lane, Jane Walker.
10. Subscription to the Bromley House Library (Nottingham) and purchase of books.
11. Hosting of the BSS website and domain name costs.
12. Bank costs (inc international), credit card costs, Society liability insurance.
13. Includes £2000 bequest of Glenda Bateman. Proceeds of Conference auctions are automatically added to the Somerville Fund.
14. The Andrew Somerville Memorial Fund contains all donations to the BSS and its reserves are part of the general BSS Assets. Expenses include the annual Somerville Lecture and grants.
15. The BSS Library valuation is based on the 2003 value by Rogers Turner Books with allowances for inflation and new purchases.

# FOR 2008


## General Notes.

- A. These accounts are qualified in the limited sense described under Auditor's Comments (2.) The 2008 Excess of income over expenditure is a balancing entry adjustment to represent the nearest approach to a true figure.
- B. The accounts are prepared on a payments and receipts basis. That is, money is booked when it is received or spent (i.e. when cheques are written, not presented). This is in line with the Charity Commission's guidance.
- C. The year-end funds are held mainly in approved investment accounts as well as current accounts.
- D. Events are priced not to make a loss, with contingencies plus a gross margin of 10%.
- E. Stocks are valued at nil as they are unlikely to have any value if the Society were to be wound up. This does not impact our cash flow.

	2007	2008	
Current account balance	£823.75	£412.87	
Deposit account balance	£4,539.22	£5,907.32	
BSS USA current account balance (approx)	£1,075.13	£1,966.33	
Charities Office Investment Fund	£56,761.55	£57,557.85	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£63,199.65</b>	<b>£65,844.37</b>	
Change in funds during the year	£4,878.87	£2,644.72	
Income received during the year	£30,924.32	£52,580.64	
Expenses incurred during the year	£29,507.63	£51,076.50	
Excess of income over expenditure	<b>£1,416.69</b>	<b>£1,504.14</b>	
<b>Andrew Somerville Memorial Fund</b>	£2,872.15	£5,556.75	Included in above amounts
<b>St Katherine Cree Restoration Fund</b>	£1,148.42	£1,148.42	Included in above amounts
<b>Library Valuation</b>	£16,635.00	£16,635.00	Not included in above amounts (note 15)

## AUDITOR'S COMMENTS

1. The Treasurer is making every effort to produce clear and accurate records.
2. A full audit of Society financial assets was completed and confirmed correct. Each item of income and expenditure has been verified as correct and the balances of the different bank accounts shown are a true record. It is noted however that operation of the spreadsheet does not return a justified figure for Excess of income over expenditure. The Treasurer has provided an estimate of the true figure and is undertaking remedial actions to address this.
3. Due to difficulty auditing the mixed subscription payments against the bank entries, the Treasurer is requested to produce a consolidated list of subscription payments for each month.
4. The Auditor has audited the Society accounts for the last five years and is willing to continue. However, it is recommended that the Society accounts be audited by a professional accountant every five years.

NAME	POST	SIGNATURE	DATE
G Slapleton	Treasurer		22/07/09
G Parsons	Auditor		24/7/09
C Daniel	Chairman		25/07/09

## BSS PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

- BSS Postcards** - packs of 10. **1:** Scaphe dial, Cark, Holker Hall; **2:** 19<sup>th</sup> century Celtic, Clynnog-fawr; **3:** Heliochronometer, Dunchurch; **4:** Vertical, 1749, Malmesbury House, Salisbury; **5:** Polar cross dial, Bramdean.  
(EU £3.50, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £4.50) UK 3.00
- BSS Bow Tie:** dark blue with BSS emblem  
(EU £9.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £10.50) UK £8.00
- BSS Tie:** dark blue with BSS emblem  
(EU £12.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £13.00) UK £11.00
- BSS Ladies Scarf:** dark blue with BSS emblem and yellow line edging  
(EU £19.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £20.00) UK £18.00
- BSS Lapel Brooch:** (EU £5.00, World Zones 1 & 2/USA £5.50) UK £4.50
- BSS Sweat Shirt:** lighter quality £18.50 - heavier quality £22.00. Price dependent on supplier, batch, size, and postage. Please check before ordering. Overseas orders will be required to pay postal charges.

**Please note: All prices include postage and packing unless stated otherwise.**

BSS Sales: Elspeth Hill, 4 The Village, Stonegate, Wadhurst, E. Sussex, TN5 7EN  
Tel: 01580 201720 (please leave message on answer phone if necessary)  
E-mail: [Elspeth@ehill80.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Elspeth@ehill80.fsnet.co.uk)

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### **Mass Dial Register Booklets (available from Tony Wood):**

Scotland £3.00  
Wales £3.50  
Cornwall £1.50  
Rutland £7.50  
Lancashire £1.50  
Isle of Wight £2.00  
Devon £4.50  
Ireland £2.50  
\*Lincolnshire Annexe £4.00  
London £1.50  
\*S. Yorkshire Annexe £4.50  
\*W. Yorkshire Annexe £1.90  
Northumberland £1.90  
Cumbria £4.10

\* An Annexe is a listing of those dials recorded prior to or subsequent to the above two (Lines. and Yorks.) current parts of the Mass Dial Register. Their entries largely duplicate these parts but some additional entries do appear.