Friends of the Newsam Library and Archives
Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0AL
Chair: Sarah Aitchison Hon. Sec.: Rebecca Webster

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 17th July 2012

Library Teaching Room, 20 Bedford Way

In attendance: Sarah Aitchison (Chair), Becky Webster (Secretary), Mala Samuels (Treasurer), Sean Curran (Events Officer), Karen Jacobs (Newsletter Editor), Gene Adams, Emma Allison, Nazlin Bhimani, Alison Chaney, Clyde Chitty, Peter Dennison, Claire Drinkwater, Norman Graves, Diana Guthrie, Kathryn Hannan, Trevor Jagger, Gary McCulloch, Gwyneth Price, Stephen Pickles and Barbara Sakarya.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Richard Aldrich, Peter Cornall, Larry Stuart Jones and Sir William Taylor.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from last year’s AGM were approved by the FNLA.

3. Matters Arising

The Ministry of Education collection has now been sorted and processed. The journals have been added to the library catalogue and the remaining items in the collection will be added to the catalogue in time.

It was reported that no funding had been secured to catalogue the ILEA collection.

4. Annual Report

Sarah Aitchison reported on the work of the Friends over the past year.

There is now a new Friends Committee made up of staff from across the library and archives and members are discussing ways to extend the work of the Friends. The committee includes members with specific roles and other members of staff who will provide support as required. The Friends Committee members with specific roles are:
Sarah Aitchison – Chair
Becky Webster – Secretary
Mala Samuels – Treasurer
Sean Curran – Events Officer
Karen Jacobs – Newsletter Editor
Penny Bloore – Membership Secretary
Jessica Womack – online content and logo
The Friends now have 44 members (14 life members, 2 corporate members, and 28 annual members, including 2 students). The two corporate members are The Forest School Camps and Learning Plus UK.

In 2011 the Librarians of Institutes and Schools of Education (LISE) ceased to exist as an organisation and transferred their remaining funds to the Friends. It has been decided to nominate one former member of LISE to be an Honorary Friend so we are able to keep the members of LISE up to date with our work.

A study afternoon had been held in January 2012 on 'Teachers: from the Revised Code to the 'Importance of Teaching'' with presentations from Professor Gary McCulloch, Dr David Crook, Professor Wendy Robinson, Hilary Morris, Kathy Baker and Becky Webster. It had more than 40 attendees. We are now planning another event for January 2013.

5. **Treasurer’s Report**

Income figures attached. Mala Samuels talked through the figures. The Friends had received £460 from August 2011 to July 2012. The majority of income has come from subscriptions and includes a £25.00 donation. Expenditure for the period was £563.50 and had been used to cover administrative expenditure for the newsletter and study afternoon. The current balance is £5745.17.

6. **Discussion of current projects and future activities**

Sean Curran talked about current plans for the study afternoon to be held in January 2013. The event will focus on the school textbooks collection in the library and potentially other teaching resources. In particular it will focus on the textbooks for geography, science and technology, and history. The geography textbooks were recently catalogued through funding from the Soddy Trust and the science and technology, and history textbooks up to 1950 are currently being funded as part of a JISC project. Sean is in contact with the Weiner Library which is the biggest Holocaust library in the UK and recently opened in Bloomsbury. It is hoped that a member of staff will speak about the library Nazi textbook collection and the use of textbooks as propaganda. It is also hoped that there will be speakers from the IOE who are currently undertaking research. There will also be a handling table with items from the collections. More information will be circulated nearer the time.

The Library has received some funding from JISC to look at open-metadata. It is a technical project that is looking into how catalogue records and metadata can be opened up to the public across both library and archive collections. As part of the project the Examination Papers and school textbooks for science, technology and history (up until 1950) are being catalogued.

Karen spoke about the re-launch of the newsletter. A new template has been created by Jessica Womack using the new Friends logo. The newsletter will now run to eight pages and include articles from across the library and archives. Karen has held writing sessions for library staff and is interested in having roving reporters to interview people and write articles. The Friends were also encouraged to write articles and get in touch with any ideas they have for content. The first edition will be published at the end of September and will be circulated to Friends.

Kathryn Hannan gave an update on the project to catalogue the records of the National Union of Women Teachers (NUWT). She has been working on the project since April 2011 and has catalogued 345 boxes. The collection covers many of the
expected subjects including equal pay, equal education and equal franchise but also many other subjects including the marriage bar, the nationality of married women, peace and disarmament, sex education in the 1920s, rural education, and the impact of evacuation on teachers. Kathryn has also been publicising her work on the project blog and Twitter feed, and has spoken at a number of events including a conference of the History of Education Society UK and at Birmingham University, School of Education. Items from the collection have also been digitised so they can be used more widely. Two volunteers, who originally worked on the Schools Histories project, have been helping with cataloguing and research on the history of the NUWT and prominent women. This information will be made available in LibGuides. Two months further funding from the IOE has been secured meaning that the whole collection will now be catalogued, sorted and made available online. The project has been very successful and has exceeded the original aim which was only to catalogue the completed unlisted material. By the end of September the collection, which the IOE has had since 1961, will be made fully available for the first time.

Nazlin Bhimani reported that two new Special Collections had been received. The first was a set of training college prospectuses from the 1930s which had come from the BFSS archive at Brunel University. The second was a teacher handbook by Enid Blyton. Blog posts on Newsam News, the library's blog, have been written to publicise both collections.

Sarah reported that the library had recently received some funding to buy equipment to enable the library to undertake digitisation projects. Staff have been looking at digitising the journal of the NUWT and making it fully text searchable and the library is also looking at digitising theses and dissertations. Digitisation will be a priority area of work for both library and archive collections in the future.

7. Any Other Business

A discussion took place as to how to the Friends funds could be spent. The archives will be migrating items in collections to accessible media and it was mentioned that the Friends money could be used to help fund this work.