

~ THE WHITECHAPEL SOCIETY 1888 ~ CONSTITUTION.

1. NAME

- 1.1 The organisation shall be known as 'The Whitechapel Society 1888'

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The purpose of the Society is to provide a club that meets to promote the study of the Whitechapel murders & the social impact that this event had on the East End of London. The Society will also study the history of the East End of London. The Society will also study the history of the East End & any related Victorian/Edwardian topics.
- 2.2 The Society will offer talks/presentations on Victorian/Edwardian subjects and promote friendship & co-operation among its members.
- 2.3 The Society may affiliate to any group or organisation that the Committee decides is appropriate for the furtherance of the aims and objectives as stated at 2.1 and 2.2 above, and disaffiliate from any group or organisation if continued affiliation be, in the opinion of the Committee, against the interests of the Society.
- 2.4 The society is committed to creating a safe, secure and equal environment for all members and guests. The Committee therefore reserves the right to withhold or cease the membership of any person whose behaviour may bring them into conflict with this clause 2.4.

3. MEETINGS

- 3.1 The Society will hold six official meetings per year on the first Saturdays of:-

FEBRUARY ~ APRIL ~ JUNE ~ AUGUST ~ OCTOBER ~ DECEMBER.

- 3.1.1 These meetings shall be open to non-members. However, admittance for non-members shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

- 3.2 In addition to the official meetings, six unofficial Interim Meetings will be held. These meetings will be informal & open to non-members. They will take place on the first Saturdays of:-

JANUARY ~ MARCH ~ MAY ~ JULY ~ SEPTEMBER ~ NOVEMBER.

- 3.3 One meeting will be designated as the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year

- 3.4 The Whitechapel Society 1888 takes no responsibility or accepts liability for personal loss or injury whilst attending any of its meetings/seminars.

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 4.1 The AGM will be held at the official December meeting at 6pm. In circumstances where this is not possible, the AGM will be held no later than the same day as the official February meeting. Notice will be given to members by the October meeting at the latest.
- 4.2 The AGM will be open to all fully paid-up members. Members who wish to apply to join the Committee will need to have had three years of continuous membership. Nominees should give notice in accordance with the AGM announcement in October. However, the Committee may co-opt any member regardless of their length of membership onto the Committee if the Committee considers they have skills/experience which is of use to the Society.

4.3 The following business will be conducted at the AGM:-

4.3.1 The presentation of accounts, subject to an accountant's report, by the Whitechapel Society 1888 Treasurer.

4.3.2 The annual election of officers. PLEASE NOTE- Members will be advised of these via the Whitechapel Society Journal & website prior to the AGM.

5. **MEMBERSHIP**

- 5.1 Membership is open to all persons involved or interested in the Whitechapel murders, the history of the East End of London & related Victorian/Edwardian issues.
- 5.2 All members shall be encouraged to express their views & contribute to the development of the Whitechapel Society & Whitechapel Society Journal.
- 5.3 Membership is based on a subscription fee, set annually by the Committee.
- 5.4 membership is granted at the discretion of the Committee and is contingent on members accepting and agreeing to abide by all provisions of the constitution.
- 5.5 The Committee shall review the membership of any member whose conduct has adversely affected the reputation or dignity of the Society, or has contravened any of the provisions of the Constitution of the Society and/or is deemed contrary to the spirit of the Society. Any person who resigns or is removed from membership shall not be entitled to a refund of his/her membership subscription or any part thereof or any other monies contributed by him/her at any time.
- 5.6 All members will observe strict propriety with each other in tone and language.
- 5.7 The Society is a non-profit making organisation , which seeks to minimise costs to its members. Expenses shall be met by a combination of fundraising, subscription & payment of attendance by non-members at official meetings . Subscription levels are to be maintained so as to cover as far as practicable – administration, postage, stationery, journal printing, website upkeep, contingencies, speaker expenses etc.
- 5.8 The Journal of the Whitechapel Society 1888, its attendant publications, the Society's audio visual publications, website, membership lists, bank accounts, copyright, and enterprise and projects set up and operated by under the aegis of the committee of the Whitechapel Society 1888, are the property of the membership and managed by the committee on their behalf. No part of them can be separated from the corporate body of the society to become a separate entity or entities without the approval of 65% of the entire membership of the Society. This must be expressed in a postal vote instituted and funded by the proposer(s) without reimbursement from Society funds. It must also follow agreement that the issue go forward to a vote at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM of the Society called after a petition signed by one third of the entire membership of the society is received by the committee calling for said EGM.
- 5.9 Complaints by members about the conduct of other members, or about the Society and its functions in general, arising out of Society meetings and activities, can be made to any Committee member and must be in writing for discussion at the next main Committee meeting, where appropriate action will be decided upon. An emergency meeting can also be called in matters of urgency. Discussions can therefore take place via email and/or telephone but decisions can only be made after a vote via email and/or telephone has been submitted by all Committee members. The Committee's decision shall be final and the complainant will be notified in writing by the Chair.
- 5.10 Members are entitled to put forward suggestions for Society activities and functions, or for the general improvement of the Society. This should be done by contacting the Members Representative or a member of the Committee and it will be raised at the next appropriate main Committee meeting.

6. COMMITTEE

6.1 The management of the Society will be governed by a Committee consisting of:

- An Honorary President,
- Honorary Vice-President
- Elected officers as below
 - Chairperson
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary/Legal Adviser
 - Facilities Officer
 - Production Editor
 - Members Representative
 - Technical Support Officer

6.1.1 The elected officers have one vote for all decisions put to the Committee.

6.1.2 The elected officers may co-opt non-elected officers onto the committee. Co-opted committee members also have one vote for all decisions put to the committee.

6.1.3 The elected and co-opted officers may from time to time carry out other duties in the furtherance of the interests of the Society and its members.

6.1.4 The Committee may from time to time appoint Associate Non-Elected Officers to carry out various duties as required. These positions are at the discretion of the Committee. These Non-Elected Associate Officers have ex-officio roles with no voting rights.

6.1.5 The Committee may appoint and/or instruct people as it sees fit as Advisers. Advisers shall not have voting rights.

6.1.6 The position of Honorary President and Honorary Vice President are appointed by the Committee. They are not required to attend Committee meetings and do not have voting rights.

6.2 The elected Committee members will be subject to re-election on an annual basis at the AGM. Any elected Committee Member resigning are required to give three months written notice unless otherwise agreed by the remaining Committee Members. All resignations must go through the Secretary.

6.3 The Non-Elected Ex-Officio Officers will be appointed by the Committee and are subject to review and renewal every two years. They will be expected to attend official committee meetings. They will have no voting rights.

6.4 All resolutions will be decided by a majority vote, with the Honorary President having the casting vote in the event of a tie.

6.5 All members can submit adverts for publication in the journal which must be within reason and only if space allows-All Journal matters are to go through the Production Editor.

6.6 The Committee shall, at its discretion, confer Honorary Life Membership to persons who, in its judgement, has made an extraordinary contribution to the Whitechapel Society 1888. The Honorary Life Member will be entitled to complementary Society Journal and entry to the main member meetings. The said person will have no voting rights. They will allow their name to be used on all Whitechapel Society 888 publicity. The Honorary Life Member will be nominated at official Committee Meetings by a majority vote. The Honorary Life Member will however abide by the provisions of the constitution. Failure to do so could lead to the Committee on a majority vote

removing the Honorary Life Membership.

- 6.7 The Society shall hold a bank account & payments from the account shall be on the signature of the Treasurer plus at least one other nominated Committee Member.
- 6.8 A Committee Member may be removed from the Committee following a vote of no confidence proposed and seconded by elected members of the Committee which then secures the vote of a majority of the elected committee members then serving. In the event of the vote being lost or tied the motion will fail and the Chair will formally move the previous business. In the event of the motion being carried the de-selected Committee Member will have the right of appeal at the following Committee meeting
- 6.9 All matters discussed at Committee level will remain confidential unless agreed for release via official communication, via email, meeting announcement, publication in the journal or flyer/handout or the Whitechapel society 1888 official social media platforms. This is to ensure the Committee speak with one voice whilst ensuring that the members are consulted where applicable and kept informed of decisions.

7. Social Media

- 7.1 When using social media members will not post or publish untrue, misleading or derogatory comments regarding the Society, other members or guests of the Society or post or publish anything which constitutes in the opinion of the Committee anything which could bring the Society into disrepute.

8 CONSTITUTION

- 8.1 A copy of the constitution will be available on request.
- 8.2 The Constitution may only be altered officially at Committee meetings based on a simple majority vote . In the event of a tie the Chairperson will have the casting vote. Members will be notified of any alterations/amendments in the next Journal.
- 8.3 The Committee will have the power to determine any matter not covered by the Constitution.

9. WINDING UP OF WS 1888

- 9.1 Upon any resolution of 75% of the membership to dissolve or wind up the Society, any funds & assets of the Society remaining after satisfaction of its debts & liabilities, shall be distributed to other such non-profit organisations whose objectives most closely accord with those of this Society as determined by the Whitechapel Society 1888 Committee at dissolution.

10. Interpretation

- 10.1 The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules set out in this Constitution and on matters not covered by the rules.