Anniversary Meeting
(Annual General Meeting)

at **6.00pm** on **Friday 27 November 2026**

Chaired by Professor Lucy Noakes,
President of the Royal Historical Society

to be immediately followed by the

2026 Royal Historical Society Anniversary Lecture

‘From Cabaret Star to Gaullist Spy: Josephine Baker’s Secret War’

Professor Hanna Diamond (Cardiff University)

The meeting and lecture will be held in the
Wolfson Conference Room, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London, WC1E 7HU and online.

All in-person attendees must pre-register via this page.

Those unable to attend the Anniversary Meeting and Lecture in person may also view the AGM and Lecture remotely. For online attendance, **please pre-register here.**

Details for joining the **2026 Anniversary Meeting & Lecture** will be sent to you by email in the week commencing 23 November.

Please note that all papers for the Anniversary Meeting may be viewed individually via the links below, or as a **full set of papers here.**

ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 27 November 2026

AGENDA

Please note that only Fellows may vote on resolutions presented at the Anniversary Meeting. In order to ensure the meeting keeps to time, all Fellows will be sent a ballot link by which they may cast their vote to support or decline a resolution within the email notifying you of this meeting.

If you are a Fellow and have not received your email by Friday 20 November 2026, please contact governance@royalhistsoc.org noting 'AGM' in the subject line.

1. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Anniversary Meeting of 21 November 2025** (Ordinary Resolution 1): Annexe 1

2. **To receive a report on the activities of the Royal Historical Society, from the President**

3. **To commend the 'Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026' into the records of the Royal Historical Society**: Annexe 2
   (Ordinary Resolution 2)

4. **To receive an Announcement of the Election of Councillors**
   (Ordinary Resolution 3)

   In accordance with By-Law 20, the following will retire from Council during this meeting:

   - **Dr Helen Paul** (University of Southampton)
   - **Professor Olwen Purdue** (Queen's University, Belfast)

   In accordance with By-Law 21, the Fellows are notified of the successful election of the following Fellows as Councillors and Trustees:

   - **Dr Myra Bom** (Royal Holloway, University of London)
   - **Professor Susan R. Grayzel** (Utah State University)

   The Fellows are asked to ratify the appointment of the Councillors.

5. **To receive notification of the Fellowship and Membership fees for the coming year**
   (Ordinary Resolution 4)

   The following represent an increase in the Society's membership rates, effective from the next financial year which begins on 1 July 2027. This will be the first increase since 2023-24 and follows a review of the Society's subscription rates by the RHS Council.

   Membership fees account for between 55% and 60% of the Society's annual income, which goes directly to support our activities and services.

As reported in the Trustees' Annual Report (Agenda Item 3 above), the Society has and continues to extend its planned activities, specifically to promote the value of historical research and scholarship. These activities include: the range of research funding available to Fellows and Members; advocacy and campaigning for the profession and discipline; and a greater volume of content in existing and new publication series, and via new event programmes, to promote the relevance of history to contemporary life. These rate changes also reflect new initiatives to provide more support for RHS Fellows and Members who undertake research outside higher education, and those who work beyond the United Kingdom. Full details of the benefits of membership of the Society are provided in the 'Guide for Members' (revised edition: November 2026).

The increase in membership rates from July 2027 is also a response to rising costs faced by the Society in many aspects of its work over several years, and particularly with reference to journal print publishing. In setting these new levels, the Society introduces a fee model that reflects the cost of print publication and aligns rates with the Society's policy of moving away from journal print publication where possible.

The Society will continue to offer Fellows and Members the option to receive a physical copy of *Transactions* at the fee levels below, which reflect printing and shipping costs. At the same time, those who currently receive a print copy of *Transactions* will be given the option to move to an 'Online-only' membership category if they wish to do so before July 2027.

It is projected that changes to membership fees from July 2027, as set out below, will successfully support the Society's existing work and future initiatives, though the Society reserves the right to review the fee structure if required by future circumstances.

From 1 July 2027, subscription rates will be as follows, according to membership category and member preference.

	Within UK	Outside UK
Fellow (Online only)*	75.00	75.00
Fellow (Print & Online)**	85.00	90.00
Retired Fellow (Online only)	50.00	50.00
Retired Fellow (Print & Online)	60.00	65.00
Associate Fellow (Online only)	55.00	55.00
Associate Fellow (Print & Online)	65.00	70.00
Member (Online only)	50.00	50.00
Member (Print & Online)	60.00	65.00
Postgraduate Member***	25.00	25.00

Further details on the above classifications of Fellows and Members may be found on the Society website here.

* **Online only:** this is an option available to all Fellows and Members. It includes online access to the current and all archive volumes of the Society's journal, *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* (1872-), and of the RHS Camden series (400 volumes of primary source content, from 1838 onwards). It does not include the print edition of the annual volume of *Transactions*. The Society encourages members to choose this option to reduce the environmental and financial burden of manufacturing and shipping an annual print publication of 500+ pages. The 'Online-only' membership fee takes account of the cost to the Society of providing access to the full *Transactions* and Camden archive online.

** **Print & Online**: this is an option available to all Fellows and Members of the Society, with the exception of Postgraduate Members. In addition to online access to the current and all archive volumes of the Society's journal *Transactions* (1872-) and the RHS Camden series (1838-), it includes the print edition of the latest annual volume of *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*. The price differential reflects the additional cost to the Society for Cambridge University Press to manufacture and ship the print edition, within the UK and internationally. 'Print & Online' remains a membership option, though the Society encourages take up of 'Online only'. Fellows and Members who currently subscribe to 'Print & Online' will be invited to change their membership to 'Online only', if they wish to do so, before 1 July 2027.

*** **Postgraduate Members:** qualify for the 'Online-only' option by default. All other membership benefits, where applicable, are available equally to Postgraduate Members as to other membership categories.

The Society is aware of the financial hardship currently faced by some of its members. Those who have experienced a significant material change in their financial circumstances during the past year (for example, due to loss of employment) may request the Society's 12-month hardship rate, to be applied on an individual fee from the next renewal date of 1 July 2027.

6. **To reappoint the Auditors**
   (Ordinary Resolution 5)

   Hakim Fry Accountants (69-71 East Street, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 1BP) present themselves for reappointment as Auditors of the Royal Historical Society. This follows a review of auditing provision by the Society in March 2026 and a successful application by Hakim Fry, following the re-tendering process, to remain as the Society's Auditors for the financial year 2025-26.

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Following completion of the Society AGM, please join us for the 2026 Anniversary Lecture, given this year by

Professor Hanna Diamond on
'From Cabaret Star to Gaullist Spy: Josephine Baker's Secret War'

which takes place immediately after the Anniversary Meeting.

To find the venue: https://www.history.ac.uk/about-us/contact-us

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