



PRESIDENT ROLE INFORMATION

Role of the President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

The President is a voluntary position as a Trustee responsible to the Fellows for ensuring that the actions of the Council are in accordance with the Society Laws and Strategic Plan. As the public face of the Society, the President leads [Council](#), the Board of Trustees overseeing the business and strategic development of the Society. All Trustees of the Society are equally responsible for the legal and efficient running of the Society, following the [Royal Charter and agreed Laws of the Society](#), and the employment of staff. Trustee roles are voluntary and unremunerated, with a duration of a 3 Year term, and the potential to extend. Reasonable expenses will be paid. There is an expectation that Trustees will also contribute and play an active role in projects, and other relevant events where they will act as ambassadors of the Society.

Main Duties

The President will

- lead the Society, Council and staff, on Society policy
- maintain and enhance the Society's public reputation
- maintain a comprehensive overview of all Society business
- be responsible for ensuring the collaborative development and implementation of a strategic programme
- take decisions between Council meetings as required
- represent the Society as appropriate
- ensure that Council and the Fellowship are appropriately informed of Society affairs
- drive the Society accommodation project ensuring appropriate governance

Meetings to Chair:

- Council Meetings (five times a year, currently afternoons from 1pm in March, May, August, October and December)
- President's Committee (Meetings as required)
- Ordinary Meetings (lecture meetings usually second Monday of each month from October to March, can extend to April)
- Anniversary Meeting (AGM always on the 30 November each year where not a Sunday) and any EGMs
- Conferences (e.g. Archaeological Research in Progress Chiring morning or afternoon session)

Activities

The President will:

- be the final arbiter in all matters of disciplinary action
- produce the President's piece for the Newsletter twice a year (currently for middle of February and middle of August)
- produce additional reports and publication pieces as necessary throughout the year
- produces a written commentary for the Annual Report (published with the Annual Accounts online)

- presents a President's Address at an Ordinary Meeting in their final year of office or soon after demitting office
- will report any important decisions taken between Council meetings to the next available Council meeting
- liaise with the Director to produce the agenda for Council meetings and the AGM
- sign external communications to Government or similar bodies
- attend other Society Committees as appropriate (currently the President attends the Staffing Committee, the Society also has a Grants and Awards Committee and a Finance Committee).

The President is supported by two Vice Presidents, one of whom is particularly involved in staff matters and chairs the Staffing Committee; general Society business is normally delegated to the Director as per a Scheme of Delegation.

President's Committee

The President's Committee is a standing Committee of the Council, the role of which is to support the Director in running the Society, providing an opportunity to horizon-scan and identify emerging issues of interest, both externally and internally; and exceptionally to agree urgent responses on behalf of the Society. It will also examine the constituency of Council trustees and ensure the sustainable membership of Council with the appropriate spread of skills and experience.

Appointment

Law 13 states: "The President shall be elected for a period of up to three years and may stand for election as President for a second term, subject to Law 16 below. The Treasurer shall be elected for one year and, subject to Law 16 below, shall be eligible for re-election provided however that the term of office of the President and the Treasurer respectively may not exceed six years in total. The elections of the President and the Treasurer shall be by ballot at the Annual General Meetings upon a list issued by the Council for that purpose to the Fellows at least fourteen days before the meeting."

Law 16 states: "A retiring member of the Council who has held office for two terms shall not be eligible for re-election as a member of the Council unless such re-election is as an Office-bearer of the Council, provided however that no person shall be eligible for re-election as a member of the Council in any circumstances if such re-election would result in that person's period of membership of the Council in any capacity exceeding nine years unless a period of at least two years has elapsed since the date of that person's previous retirement from the Council."

Council Trustees have appointed a President Selection Advisory Group, a short-term working group, to advise the Council on potential candidates for election to President. The current President, Dr David Caldwell has offered to discuss the post with Fellows interested in applying. Contact the Director in the first instance:

director@socantscot.org