



Isle of Wight Family History Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 8 May 2010

Meeting held at the Riverside Centre, Newport, Isle of Wight. Chaired by the Chairman, Mrs Janet Griffin.

Apologies

Janet Few, Anthony Elgar, Pat Pengelly, Jane Cotton and Angela McMurtry

Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 9 May 2009

Minutes of the last A.G.M. distributed to the members present. The Minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed Sally Watson, seconded by Jon Matthews and signed by Janet Griffin.

Matters Arising

None

Chairman's Report

2009 was another successful year for the Isle of Wight Family History Society with membership continuing to increase.

Our website continues to get numerous "hits" with the BMD pages getting the most viewed. Geoff Allan, the Society's Webmaster has revamped the look of the home page and has added several new pages to now include the Church Burial's Index, originally prepared by Dave Gladdis and a Monumental Inscription page.

The BMD Index continues to be refined with the actual year (rather than estimated) being added to the births and deaths and now the full forenames instead of initials are being added to the Marriage Index. Thanks to Dina Broughton and all the team of Volunteers for their continuing work.

In order to perpetuate the name of Di Harding, our former editor, the Di Harding Award was initiated during 2009, with prizes going to the best 3 articles published in the Society's journal during 2009. The winner was Susan Graczer for her article "Working Life in the 15th to 17th Centuries", with Kate Burhouse, 2nd with "The Rann

Family of the Isle of Wight” and Barbara Stammans for “Twice Married”. I hope this award continues well into the future and I look forward to reading some interesting articles.

It has been disappointing that the Resource Rooms continue to be underused by members. Even so, I hope those that have made use of it have been helped with their researches.

The same applies to the coach trips, which were reduced to four during 2009, instead of the six which have been made in previous years. This has been further reduced to three in 2010. I feel that the increase in documents and indexes available on-line have contributed to the decline in passengers. Although I believe that digital images are not quite the same as handling original documents.

Sadly, Val Luter will be retiring from the Committee this time, having been Secretary for the last 18 months. Pat Phillips is also retiring having been Programme Secretary for several months, which she unfortunately had to give up because of other commitments. I thank them both for the time and effort they have put into their roles on behalf of the Society.

Angela McMurtry, too, has decided to give up the role of Editor of the journal, though she will continue as Programme Secretary. We must thank her for her work in producing the last four editions of the journal, the first of which was done while she was in Australia!

I, too, have decided to stand down at this AGM. I attended the inaugural meeting of the Society in January 1985 and have been on the Committee ever since; just over 25 years. I have seen many changes to family history research over these years, the greatest being the use of home computers and the Internet, with easier access to documents and indexes. I have made many friends in the Society during that time, a few of whom have turned out to be relatives!

Finally, I must thank the Committee for their care of the Society and wish them well in the future.

Secretary’s Report

2010 has been a very successful year for the Society. Despite the economic downturn and the availability of family history resources via the Internet, our membership has increased year on year. At the time of writing our membership is 1041, however, our Membership Secretary, Jon Matthews, predicts that this should rise to 1100 by the end of the year.

I’m convinced that, the success of our Society is due to the dedicated work of our Committee and involvement of our volunteers, particularly with regard to our BMD index. Births are now on the Index from 1837 to 2002. Similarly, marriages are transcribed from 1837 – 2002. Indeed the records from 1837 to 1870 now include the full forenames of the bride and the groom. Deaths are now completed to 2007 with 2008 pending.

I think you will agree with me that our website provides a valuable publicity and advertising window for our Society. I would like to thank Geoff Allan, our Webmaster, for his care and enthusiasm in developing the website we see today. I'm sure you will all appreciate the considerable time and effort it has taken to produce the exceptional site we have at present.

I'm sorry to say that this is my last report as secretary to the Society. Unfortunately, family commitments mean that I am now unable to give the time to the Society that I would wish. I have thoroughly enjoyed the work for the Society and hope that my successor will also experience the same sense of enjoyment. I have particularly enjoyed working with my colleagues on the Committee and thank them for their support and friendship.

Treasurer's Report

This Report outlines the financial activity of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2009. Summary Accounts and the documents from which they have been derived, are available for inspection.

Revenue, of which two-thirds derives from membership fees, remains healthy. There was growth in fees of 12% compared with the previous year, and increased support for monthly meetings, the Conference and the New Year Dinner.

The committee expresses its thanks to all those members who made donations, the sum of which amounted to a twelfth of our income.

Media sales declined, hence also shipping payments, and the Resource Centre remained poorly supported. Interest on Bank deposit declined severely.

Expenditure remains broadly in line with income. It must be pointed out that cost of the November Journal was not invoiced until January 2010, so will appear in the current year. Also, an insurance premium for 2009 was accounted for in December 2008.

Committee agreed to reimburse the full cost of sending representatives to SWAG so the Conference expenses were increased. Room hire and coach hire both increased but media purchases and Parish Chest fee declined in line with falling media sales.

Conclusions. While we continue to attract the support of enthusiasts worldwide we can be confident of having a flourishing Society. Costs will continue to rise but we are well placed to meet them. We carried forward a fund surplus of just over £30,000.

It was proposed by Jon Matthews that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as a true record, seconded by Rosemary Stewart. It was also proposed that Elaine Cherry be nominated as financial scrutineer. Proposed by Val Luter and seconded by Carola Tarrant.

Nomination of Committee

A proposal was made to elect the following members to the committee: Malcolm Tait, Jon Matthews, Geoff Allan, Tony Elgar, Betty Dhillon, Hazel Pullen, Liz Bail and Angela McMurtry. It was proposed by Sally McConkey and seconded by Jonyth Hill that the Committee be voted in *en bloc*. The proposal was passed by the meeting.

Any Other Business

Motion by Angela McMurtry that Society makes a donation to a historical society each year

Discussion took place with regard to the above motion by Angela McMurtry. It was put to the members that the Society make a donation of £100 per year to an Isle of Wight historical society each year for as long as the Society could afford it.

A number of members made suggestions. For example, that the donation could be made to an individual within the membership undertaking research. Malcolm Tait suggested that the award should be broadly interpreted as long as the research was in sympathy with the aims of the Family History Society and that the named society or individual should not be supported by the Lottery Fund. Another member suggested that the award could be given to a school to encourage young people to develop an interest in their family history. Jon Matthews, commented that Angela's intention was to strengthen links with other societies on the Island. Tony Bevis put forward the suggestion that the award should be at the discretion of the Committee to a limit of 10% of surplus.

John Moxon put forward the proposal that Angela's motion be amended to empower the Committee to have discretion to make a donation to an appropriate cause. This was seconded by Dina Broughton.

Finally, Angela's motion, which was amended by John Moxon was put to the membership. The motion was passed with one member against and no abstentions.

The meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.