



## **Isle of Wight Family History Society**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting 9 May 2009**

**Meeting held at the Riverside Centre, Newport, Isle of Wight on 9 May 2009 and chaired by the Chairman, Mrs Janet Griffin.**

#### **Apologies**

John and Sue Moxon

#### **Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 10 May 2008**

Minutes of the last A.G.M. distributed to the members present. After Chris Braund and Janet Few were added to the apologies list, the Minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed Sally McConkey, seconded by Malcolm Tait. Signed by Janet Griffin.

#### **Matters Arising**

None

#### **Chairman's Report**

2008 has been another successful year, membership continuing to grow, ending the year at 1,074.

Our website continues to be popular, particularly the BMD Index, which is now having the exact year of birth added, instead of an estimate. Our thanks must go to Dina Broughton and all the volunteers for all their hard work to make this index so useful. Our website was awarded a highly commended certificate in the Federation of Family History Societies' Best Website Award 2008.

The Resource Rooms continue to be used less than we would like. However, it is good to see mainland and overseas members coming to the Rooms and I hope they have been helped with their research.

Coach trips are also low in numbers and the number of trips has been reduced from six to four.

Louisa Campbell, who was elected to the Committee at the last AGM and was the Secretary, had to resign because of ill health. Dina stood in until Val Luter was co-opted on to the Committee as Secretary.

We were all much saddened by the death in December of Di Harding, followed by that of Roy Middlebrooke in March. Both were long-standing members of the Society and knowledgeable in local and family history. Di had been Editor of our journal until ill health forced her to resign and Roy was our Vice Chairman and Librarian.

Three members of the Committee will be retiring. Rosemary West had been on the Committee for 3 years and was formerly the Secretary. Sandie Tomkins has been our Editor for less than 2 years and took on a difficult job when she was new to family history. Lastly, the Committee is losing Dina Broughton, who has been on the Committee for 12 years. She started the West Wight Group before joining the Committee. She has been Secretary and Membership Secretary. She started our website in 1998 when she became the web-master and then started the BDM Index in 2003. Recently she has been Editor and Programme Secretary and written up some of the meetings reports. I think of all of us she has probably done the widest variety of jobs. She deserves a well-earned rest. We thank them all for their hard work.

I am pleased to say that Angela McMurtry has agreed to be our new Editor from the August issue. We all hope that this will work well, as she lives in Australia.

### **Secretary's Report**

This is my first report as Secretary of the Society, having joined the Committee in January this year. The membership of the Society continues to grow. 1076 members registered in 2008 and 105 new members registered this year.

The BMD Index is now completed. However, the latest task for volunteers has been checking for errors in the indexing. The Co-ordinator for this work is Dina Broughton, who has made an enormous contribution over the years. Unfortunately, Dina has indicated that she is retiring from the Committee and we will miss her valuable contribution to our meetings.

The Society's Website has been Highly Commended by the Federation of Family History Societies. Again, we must give special thanks to Dina and David Broughton, who built the website from scratch.

Since becoming a member of the Committee I have been humbled by the dedication and commitment shown by my colleagues. The death of Di Harding in December and Roy Middlebrooke in March was a great loss to the Society. Both were long time members of the Society. Di, was also a former Editor of the Journal and Roy our Vice-Chairman and Librarian. They will be sadly missed.

On a happier note, the Summer Outing this year will be at Nunwell House, Brading, on Monday 1st June, 2008. It will consist of a tour of house and garden plus refreshments. The cost per person will be £10 to be paid at the Venue.

## **Treasurer's Report**

These observations refer to the year ending 31st December 2008. Summary Accounts as provided by the Scrutineer, and the original documents, may be inspected (at the rear of the hall).

### **Revenue Side**

Our membership continues to grow, against the trend for societies of our size. Media sales also increased, making a useful contribution to our income. Both of these activities are in the hands of committeeman Jon Matthews whose input of time and energy is hereby acknowledged. Donations, yet again in excess of £1000 are gratefully received. Members' participation in events continues to decline. Revenue from monthly meetings, coach trips and even the One-Day conference was down from 2007- The visits to the Resource rooms did show an increase but it is still a much under used facility.

### **Expenses Side**

Journal production and distribution costs are somewhat reduced but remain our major expense. Coach hire cost is reduced thanks to Janet Griffin's efforts but is still a loss making activity. Commission paid to our on-line agents increased 55%, reflecting the growth of membership sales and media sales by that method. The amount invested in media for sale is also necessarily increased.

### **Conclusions**

I am pleased to report that the year ended with a surplus of £2,655. In spite of fluctuations in individual items, overall expenditure remains virtually the same as that of 2007. The surplus equates very nearly to the increased revenue from membership.

It was proposed that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as a true record. Proposed Chris Braund, seconded Barry Hall. It was also proposed that Elaine Cherry be nominated as financial scrutineer. Proposed by Brenda Dodgson and seconded by Jean Peters.

### **Nomination of Committee**

A proposal was made to elect the following members to the committee: Janet Griffin, Malcolm Tait, Jon Matthews, Geoff Allan, Tony Elgar, Betty Dhillon, Val Luter, Hazel Pullen, Pat Phillips and Angela McMurtry. The proposal was passed by the meeting. It was proposed and seconded that the Committee be voted in *en bloc*. The proposal was passed by the meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Di Harding Award**

Discussion took place with regard to the suggestion by Angela McMurtry that we should have an award to commemorate the invaluable contribution Di Harding made to the Society. It was agreed that, the award would be given annually to the authors of the three best articles published in the journal over the year. In the first instance, the Committee would select those articles that qualify and choose the best three and

rank them 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. In subsequent years the panel of judges will be the three winners from the previous year.

The meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.