



Isle of Wight Family History Society

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
Quay Street Methodist Church, Newport, on 13th May 2023 at 11.45 a.m.**

There were 55 members in attendance.

Apologies

See appendix

The Chairman introduced the Committee and our current President Jon Matthews. Our journal editor, Peter Spencer, was unable to attend.

Geoff ALLAN summarised the Annual and Financial Reports, both of which were published in the May journal.

- No questions were raised prior to the AGM for discussion
- Last year attendance at our AGM was low (29 members) and we did not have a quorum (50 members or 10% of the membership). We received a further 20 online/postal votes, giving us a total of 49 votes. Being pragmatic, we proposed changes to the Constitution to reduce the quorum to 25. This was put to the membership and agreed by the majority.
- We tried holding monthly Zoom meetings for members to discuss various topics but these were not well attended and were therefore discontinued.
- We currently hold in-person afternoon meetings with a speaker, on the first Monday of the month at Arreton Community Hall. Attendance at these meetings has improved over recent months.
- Our new website is now almost finished and our old legacy website is no longer in existence.
- We have about 3000 members in our Facebook group, but not all of these are members of our Society. This is managed by Peter Spencer as administrator.
- After lockdown we reduced our use of the Heritage Resource Centre to two sessions per week. We have subsequently signed a new one-year agreement with Friends of Northwood Cemetery to take this into account, thereby reducing our outgoings. We cancelled our costly society subscriptions to FindMyPast and Ancestry as they were not being used. We would urge members to use the Centre when it is open on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings, otherwise we may have to rethink the situation.
- We have a number of transcription projects on the go and thank you to all of our volunteers for their work on these.
- Geoff Allan has been converting the Memorials database for our new website.

- Our Pedigree Index has now been taken over by Mike Hoar. It consists of 650 trees and 500,000+ individual entries.

Treasurer's Report:

- Unfortunately, we finished the year with a deficit of £720.
- We have now received a rebate from Friends of Northwood Cemetery for our reduction in use of the Heritage Resource Centre last year.
- Our main source of income is membership subscriptions and donations.
- We were notified of an unexpected bonus payment of £400 from the Publishers Licencing Society as our journals are held in libraries.
- Our main outgoings are rental of the Heritage Resource Centre, journal production and distribution, hire of Arreton Community Hall, storage and website development.

The Financial Statement has been accepted by the auditor.

The Chairman then handed over to our current President Jon MATTHEWS. This year voting will again be the sum of three voting options (in person, online and postal) but please only vote once.

Election of the Executive Officers and Committee (Already proposed and seconded to allow for online/postal voting)

All the current Committee are willing to stand again but we now have a vacancy for Vice-Chairman and Programme Secretary.

Jon MATTHEWS thanked Geoff for his fantastic work over the last ten years and for continuing to be our Chairman.

Chairman Geoff ALLAN is nominated as our Chairman and has indicated his willingness to stand for office. There being no other nominations, Sharon BEDDARD proposed and Hazel PULLEN seconded that Geoff be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman We currently have a vacancy for Vice-Chair if anyone is interested in this position. John PULLEN has indicated that he may be interested.

Secretary Gillian GLASBEY is nominated as our Secretary and has indicated her willingness to stand for office. There being no other nominations, Mike HOAR proposed and Claire WILLIS seconded that Gillian be re-elected and this was carried unanimously

Treasurer Claire WILLIS is nominated as our Treasurer and has indicated her willingness to stand for office. There being no other nominations, Geoff ALLAN proposed and Gerry NEWBERRY seconded that Claire be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.

Membership Secretary Geraldine NEWBERRY is nominated as our Membership Secretary and has indicated her willingness to stand for office. There being no other nominations, Sharon BEDDARD proposed and Mike HOAR seconded that Geraldine be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.

Programme Secretary We currently have a vacancy for Programme Secretary

Committee Sharon BEDDARD, Peter SPENCER, Hazel PULLEN, Mike HOAR and John PULLEN. There being no other nominations, Sharon BEDDARD proposed by Geoff Allen and seconded by Gerry NEWBERRY,
Peter SPENCER proposed by Gerry NEWBERRY and seconded by Mike HOAR
Mike HOAR proposed by John PULLEN and seconded by Sharon BEDDARD
John PULLEN proposed by Geoff ALLAN and seconded by Claire WILLIS
Hazel PULLEN proposed by Sharon BEDDARD and seconded by Mike HOAR
were re-elected *en bloc* and this was carried unanimously.

Geoff ALLAN then took back the chair.

52 in-person votes were received for each nomination. We have also received 10 online and 2 postal votes. Online/postal voting is open until 31st May. We currently have 1005 active memberships with 1200 actual members which is in line with the past 5-6 years. However, more people usually join throughout the year.

Geoff thanked the Committee Members and volunteers for all their work.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement were both accepted unanimously.

Questions from Members:

Sally WATSON suggested we might have one or two evening meetings during the summer months to enable members who work full time to attend.

We do visit this issue from time to time and will consider this suggestion if we can find a suitable venue.

Andy LOCKHART asked if there was any possibility of extending the BMD index past 2010. *The Registrar's Office have not given us permission for this. However, post 2010 register entries are available online through the National Passport Office website.*

Another member asked if it was possible to change the deadline for online/postal voting to finish prior to the AGM.

We would look at this suggestion for the coming year.

Another member asked if we could save money by having the journal printed locally and would we eventually phase out printed copies and move to e-journals only.

We used to have exchange paper journals but these are now usually PDFs or links to other websites.

Janet GRIFFIN asked if we still send printed copies of our journal to libraries.

We do still do this.

The meeting closed at 12.23 p.m

Appendix – apologies were received from the following members:

Peter Spencer
Chris Cook
Lesley Gulliver
Sheila Colenutt
Jean James
Shani Watts
Charly Nobbs
Jeff Sechiari
Beryl McAulifee
Den Chape
Sheila Chape
Ann Ryder
Pauline Hogan
Dean Bagwell
Sue Weston