



Isle of Wight Family History Society

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
Arreton Village Hall, Newport, on 2nd June 2025 at 1.30 pm.**

There were 34 members in attendance.

Apologies

See appendix

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM. Our Constitution states that we will hold an AGM in May of each year. In the past we have combined the AGM with our annual Conference but this was not possible this year.

After the AGM there will be a break with refreshments. Thank you to those who have provided these. This will be followed by an informal 'show and tell' of people's ancestors relating to VE/VJ Day. Thank you to those who have brought in displays.

The Chairman introduced the Committee (apologies from Sharon BEDDARD and Mike HOAR) and our outgoing President Jon MATTHEWS. Jon was thanked for his contribution over many years to the Society and his term as President.

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

- We continue to be at the Heritage Resource Centre in Cowes twice a week (Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning). Thanks to Hazel Pullen and Sharon Beddard for staffing this. We also thank our volunteers. We now have a banner outside to advertise when we are there, which brings some people in to the HRC. The rental cost of the HRC has increased from £200 per month to £220 per month for the forthcoming year.
- Our website is our 'shop window'. We continue to augment this with municipal cemetery records – Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor and Wroxall.
- We have about a dozen people involved with our Licensed Premises project. This will form the basis of our One Day Conference in September. So far, we have about 3000 licensees and 1000 licensed premises with a lot more to be done.
- In 2026 we are hoping to look at schools and teachers.
- With an ageing demographic some of our members have passed away during the past year and these have been mentioned in the journal. The main one last year was Janet Griffin who had been involved in the Society from the very beginning. This was very sad and representatives of the Society attended the funeral.
- Some of our volunteers are working remotely on licensed premises, BMD announcements from the IW County Press and material we inherited from Charlie Taylor. Rosemary Stewart is now unable to continue transcribing from the

Guardians of the Poor Minute Books at the Records Office and Derek Osbourn has completed the last part of this. Geoff Allan will talk to Simon Dear at the Records Office in the coming months about any future projects.

- Membership summary for the last year was 401 UK membership, 455 eJournal and 33 Rest of World, giving a total of 889, a shortfall on the previous year's total of 1222. Our main expense is postage for journals.
- A common problem amongst Family History Societies is an ageing demographic. It would be very nice to attract people slightly younger than ourselves to join the Society.

Financial Report:

- Our accounts prepared by Claire WILLIS have been audited by Dean FINLAYSON.
- Our total income for the year was £16,806.75. Total expenditure was £13,891.99 leaving us with a surplus of £2,914.76. Our net current assets are £19,895.37.

Voting Procedure:

Voting can take place in person, online using the form created by Mike Hoar (this has now closed) or by post using the centre yellow pages of the May journal. Twenty one members have voted prior to the AGM but we have a quorum (currently 25) present at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Jon MATTHEWS for being President for the last three years. Jon will now become a Vice President. Pete SPENCER stood down as Journal Editor last year for health reasons but will now be appointed as a Vice President.

Election of President

The Chairman was happy to announce that Richard SMOUT had agreed to accept his nomination of President of our Society for a period of three years.

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 still have a vacancy for Vice-Chairman and Programme Secretary if anyone is interested in joining us. We are able to co-opt people on to the Committee.

The Chairman then handed over to our new President Richard SMOUT.

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

Geoff ALLAN then took back the chair.

Vice-Chairman This position is still vacant.

Secretary Gillian GLASBEY is nominated as our Secretary and has indicated her willingness to stand for office. There being no other nominations, Geoff ALLAN proposed and Gerry NEWBERRY 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, Hazel PULLEN proposed and Geoff ALLEN seconded that Claire be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.
- Membership Secretary Gerry NEWBERRY is nominated as our Membership Secretary and has indicated her willingness to stand for office. There being no other nominations, Mike HOAR proposed and Sharon BEDDARD seconded that Gerry be re-elected and this was carried unanimously.
- Programme Secretary This position is still vacant.
- Committee Sharon BEDDARD, Steve NEWBERRY, Mike HOAR, John PULLEN and Hazel PULLEN. There being no other nominations, Sharon BEDDARD proposed by Geoff ALLAN and seconded by Gerry NEWBERRY,
Steve NEWBERRY 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.

At the next Committee meeting we will rationalise and make sure everyone is happy to continue in these roles. Whilst we can generally run the business of the Society, we can co-opt members to the Committee if anyone is interested in joining us.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement were both accepted unanimously.

Questions from Members:

There were no queries raised by members prior to the meeting and no questions from the floor.

The meeting closed at 1.53 pm.

Appendix – apologies were received from the following members:

Sharon Beddard

Mike Hoar

Peter Spencer

Christine Broom

Derek Ive

Ann Barrett

Stephanie Monk

Keith Goodchild