

Minutes of the AGM of the South Wales Record Society held at the Glamorgan Archives, Leckwith, Cardiff on Saturday 12th May 2018 at 2 pm

Present: Chairman, Secretary, General Editor and about 17 members.

Thanks were extended to Rhian and the Glamorgan Archives for hosting the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received from David Lermon, Richard Hutchings, Christabel Hutchings, Tony Hopkins, Katrina Legg

2. The Minutes of the AGM held 13th May 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Raised under item 3 (Matters Arising) of last year Jeff Childs brought the meeting up-to-date with the position of the local studies collection held by Cardiff Library. He had attended a very good Open Day at Cathays Research and Heritage Library where deposits were on show. Amongst the deposits he was previously unaware of were an almost up-to-date set of Glamorgan County Council Minutes. As was previously said, space at Cathays was limited but the situation was felt to have been better than previously anticipated. The matter of the housing/location of Cardiff Library's 'Historic Collections' (MSS) had not yet been resolved.

4. Annual Report 2017/18

This was placed on the website along with the minutes of the 2017 AGM as advertised on the agenda paper. No requests had been received for paper copy.

The Secretary ran briefly through the report highlighting committee and officer changes and thanked those retirees for their sterling work for the Society. She also commented on the most successful launch of 'Spiritual Botany' at Pontypool Museum although only about 15 were present and thanked Dr Adam Coward, the volume editor, and all others concerned. She also thanked the officers and the committee for their support during the past year. The website continued to be a useful tool, and thanks were due in no small part to Andrew Dulley for maintaining it. The Society continued to be active on social media and she urged members to visit us on the website as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

The chairman thanked RD for her report which was accepted by the meeting (proposed by Keith Jones and seconded by Barry Davies).

5. Treasurer's Report 2017/18

The Treasurer's report was read in an edited version by the chairman, the treasurer being unable to attend due to another commitment. It was also signalled that the treasurer was standing down from the post after 15 years but that Kim Collis had agreed to take over in the short term and it was felt he would fit the bill perfectly.

As last year there was a loss which was due in the main to the publication cost for this year's volume – 30 'A Spiritual Botany' edited by Adam N Coward which was £4,864.50 including flyers and marketing.

Subscriptions declined slightly due to resignations of members and also cancellation by members who were previously paying £3.00 or £5.00. There were now 71 individual members and 10 institutional members paying the full subscription of £20.00. (£17.50 sub, plus £2.50 p&p) The Society was also still receiving payments of £3.00 and £5.00 from previous members who had not cancelled their standing orders. These payments were being treated as donations but included in “Subscriptions” in the accounts.

The outgoing treasurer signalled that although there was a healthy balance in the Building Society account and while it was not necessarily the society’s remit to make a profit, to enable the society to continue producing quality academic texts that may otherwise be lost, it should consider the financial viability of future publications to ensure that at least a break-even situation was achieved. This may mean that volumes are digitally printed in paperback so that the information was not lost.

As stated at the AGM last year we are not able to claim Gift Aid from HMRC, as under the new Charity Commission rule which states: If the benefit received by a member exceeds 25% of the donation (subscription) then Gift Aid cannot be claimed.

Also, only 39 (54%) of the full membership had provided the Treasurer with email addresses, which was fairly good, but still meant we have to mail out information to members who do not have emails.

The current account bank balance stood at £585 at the end of the financial year while the high interest account in the Monmouthshire Building Society has yielded £27.00 interest this financial year. As it was necessary to transfer £1000 from the Building Society to cover mainly the publication costs, the amount now invested was £12,891.00, which included the interest mentioned above.

The surplus stock was now housed at Gwent Archives, Ebbw Vale with the remainder at West Glamorgan Archive Service. The Treasurer thanked Tony Hopkins at Ebbw Vales and Kim Collis at Swansea for providing this storage particularly as this was being done at no cost to the Society. No value for this stock had been included in the accounts, though it has value as it has been paid for. This means that any volumes sold represent pure profit for the society, apart from any postage.

Again thanks were given to Richard Hutchings for his report which was accepted by the meeting (proposed by Maddy Gray and seconded by Richard Watson).

6. General Editor’s report on current and future publications

The SWRS's publication for 2017 was Adam Coward (ed.), *‘A Spiritual Botany: Shewing What of God Appears in the Herbs of the Earth; together with some of their natural Virtues and Vices: in Blank Verse and Rhime’* by Edmund Jones. It was launched at a successful event at the Pontypool Museum in December 2017, a location very close to the setting for Jones’s work. Adam Coward gave a very interesting talk, which was well received; I greatly look forward to hearing him expounding upon this topic in more detail later this afternoon.

The SWRS's publication for 2018 will be Christabel Hutchings and Richard Frame (eds.), *Charley's War 1914-1919: The Diary of Charles Parkinson Heare, 2nd Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment*. The source material for this volume is the First World War diary of Charley Heare, a soldier from the Gwent valleys who fought in the trenches of north-east France. It will be a really fascinating volume, filled with vivid insights into the lived experiences of soldiers during the war and all sorts of other interesting details, ably contextualised by the extensive additional background research carried out by the volume's editors. It is sure to attract a wide degree of public interest, particularly since this year marks the centenary of the end of the war, of course. The typescript, currently with the peer reviewer, was at an advanced stage of preparation. Publication of the volume is intended for approximately September 2018.

Future publications for the Society

Beyond the publication plans for 2018, several interesting-sounding proposals had been presented and were currently being worked on by their respective editors. Foremost amongst these were:

- Richard Watson (ed.), *The Diary of William Southern Clark, 1854: Cardiff steals a march*. This proposed volume aims to provide a detailed insight into the day-to-day life of a professional engineer and mineral agent in the middle of the nineteenth century: his work, travel, friendships, health and pleasures. It will also provide an in-depth account of how, having been initially thwarted, the route of the Rhymney Railway was agreed, which changed the port for the valley's product from Newport to Cardiff, largely through the initiative of William Clark.
- Rod Cooper and Prys Morgan (eds.), *The Diary of Charles Morgan, 1834–1857*. Charles Morgan was a gentleman farmer from an Anglo-Welsh family based in Biddlesden in Buckinghamshire. As owner of the tithes of Llanrhidian, he was an important figure in north east Gower and his diaries record in detail his dealings with local artisans, fellow farmers and several important Gower personages. They also reflect farming practices, the effects of industrialisation and local gossip.

Other proposals for publication in future years have also been suggested – for example, a study of the Philadelphia Welsh, but I am certainly prepared to consider any other proposals which prospective editors may wish to make.

The general editor was thanked for his report which was accepted by the meeting (proposed by David Jenkins and seconded by Lisa Tallis).

7. Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee

The chairman was due to stand down after a three-year tenure of the position but because no successor had come forward he agreed to stay on for a further year as per the constitution. He did however seek the meeting's agreement for a new position of deputy chair to deputise in his absence and thus maintain continuity and to provide a candidate for chairman in the future; this was accepted and it was agreed that the committee fill the post as soon as possible. The treasurer was standing down as previously mentioned and Kim Collis had agreed to take the position for a limited period. His appointment was accepted by the meeting (proposed by Keith Jones seconded by Richard Watson). The secretary would continue in post but was still actively seeking help. The general editor agreed to remain in post.

Drs Dylan Foster Evans and Richard Watson and Richard Hutchings were elected to the Committee for the customary three-year term leaving two vacancies to be filled at the discretion of the committee in the course of the next year as committee members Elisabeth Bennett and David Leslie Davies were retiring due to ill-health. Christabel Hutchings, David Jenkins and Professor Maddy Gray were confirmed as co-opted members; that left one place for a co-opted member at the discretion of the committee. Thanks, were given to all officers and committee members for their support during the past year.

The chairman thanked the secretary for her work in arranging the committee's nominations.

8. Any other business

One item of other business was raised by the chairman who alerted members to the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 which was coming into force on 25th May. He explained the rationale behind the regulations which existed to protect data stored by organisations and to get those organisations to notify members as to what data was collected and how it was processed. A Privacy Policy had been developed by the society and this had been sent to members by email or post. It would ultimately be placed on the society's website.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2.39 pm.

After the AGMs, we joined with members of the Glamorgan History Society for a most stimulating and interesting presentation from Dr. Adam Coward on his volume '*Spiritual Botanology*'. This was an amplification of the presentation he gave at the volume's launch last December.

As was the case last year, it was a pity that more members of both societies were not present to enjoy what was a most entertaining and enthusiastically delivered lecture.