

SOUTH WALES RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700285

The Annual General Meeting held at the Glamorgan Archives, Clos Parc Morgannwg, Leckwith, Cardiff CF11 8AW on Saturday 11th May 2019 at 2.45pm.

MINUTES

Present: Chairman (Jeff Childs), Secretary (Rosemary Davies), Treasurer (Kim Collis), General Editor (Ben Curtis) and about 20 members.

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

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Gerald Gabb, Annie Owen, Nigel Williams, Neville Granville, Katrina Legg, Christabel Hutchings and Tony Hopkins
2. **Minutes of the previous A.G.M.** held at the Glamorgan Archives on Saturday 12th May 2018 were approved and signed as a true record. (These can be viewed on the website.)
3. **Matters arising**
 6. The Chair apologised on behalf of the Society for the faulty binding on *Charley's War 1914–1919: The Diary of Charles Parkinson Heare, 2nd Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment*. *The matter has now been resolved by Dinefwr Press but had taken longer than anticipated.*
 8. It was noted that the Society is fully compliant with the GDPR regulations.
4. **Annual Report 2018–2019**

This was available on the website as advertised on the agenda paper. A brief summary of the Report was given by the Secretary.

Two new committee members had been appointed: Dr Richard Allen (Newcastle University) and Dr Rachel Lock-Lewis (University of South Wales). Unfortunately, the latter had to withdraw her membership of the committee due to other commitments. It was agreed that the committee may co-opt new members.

The volume published this year was Christabel Hutchings and Richard Frame (eds.), *Charley's War 1914-1919: The Diary of Charles Parkinson Heare, 2nd Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment*. *The editors and general editor were congratulated on the quality of this publication. A successful launch had been held at Gwent Archives, and the original copy of the diary has been deposited at the Archives.*

It was noted that short works that would not be suitable as published volumes may be published on the website. The website and social media feed had helped boost sales, for which thanks were given to Andrew Dulley, webmaster.

The Annual Report was approved.

5. **Treasurer's Report for 2018–2019**

Kim Collis presented the report for his first year as treasurer and drew attention to the following points:

Yearly fees of £3.00 or £5.00 paid by former members who have not rejoined at the current rate are now considered as annual donations.

Overall sales have increased due to the popularity of *Charley's War and the promotional work undertaken by* Christabel Hutchings.

The reprint of *War Underground* (100 copies at a cost of £567) has not sold as well as hoped. Consideration might be given in future to assessing the demand for reprinting and the need for associated promotional efforts.

It has been agreed to reduce the price for publications upto *The Pennard Manor Court Books* (2000) to £10, with the exception of the popular *The Diary of William Thomas* which will be sold for £15.

The A.G.M. continues to be held concurrently with that of the Glamorgan History Society, thus reducing costs.

Postage costs have reduced this year with greater use of email.

The accounts have yet to be formally audited.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

6. **General Editor's report/ Future publications of the Society**

Ben Curtis noted the successful publication of the volume for 2018: Christabel Hutchings and Richard Frame (eds.), *Charley's War 1914–1919: The Diary of Charles Parkinson Heare, 2nd Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment*.

The volume for 2019 will be: Richard Watson (ed.), *The Diary of William Southern Clark, 1854: Cardiff steals a march*. This will 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. This volume has been given a very positive peer review and publication is expected in summer or autumn 2019.

The proposed volume for 2020 is 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. This volume is expected to appear somewhat earlier in the year than the volume for 2019.

Future volumes under consideration include the records of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia (ed. Richard Allen) and the commonplace book of John Gwin (ed. Maddy Gray and Tony Hopkins). Any other suggestions would be gratefully received. BC was thanked by the meeting for his hard work as General Editor whose report was approved.

7. **Format of future published volumes**

The possibility of moving to paperback or a mixed economy of publishing was discussed, alongside the size of print-runs. It was noted that recent publications were in many ways more suitable for paperback and that quality should be a foremost consideration in any change of policy. Laminated hardback covers were also considered as these are significantly less expensive than hardbacks with dust covers. It was agreed that the committee would bring forward proposals based on inquiries into costings and quality. The overwhelming feeling of those present was that paperback versions were for the good and comparatively cost effective.

8. **Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee including the ratification of the committees' appointment of a Vice Chair and Minutes Secretary.**

The appointment of Vice Chair (David Jones) and Minutes Secretary (Dylan Foster Evans) were ratified.

9. **Any other business**

None.

At 3.30 p.m. Stanley Soffa, BEM, presented a lecture entitled 'The voices and images of the South Wales Jewish Community'