

SOUTH WALES RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700285

The **Annual General Meeting** was held at the Glamorgan Archives, Clos Parc Morgannwg, Leckwith, Cardiff on Saturday 17th May 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: David Jenkins (Chair), Jeff Childs, Ben Curtis (General Editor), Sian King (Secretary), Louise Miskell (Vice-Chair), Madeleine Gray (President), Elisabeth Bennett, Lisa Snook (Treasurer) and about 6 members.

1. Apologies for absence

The Secretary gave apologies for absence from Andrew Dulley, Tony Hopkins, Richard Gaunt, Emma Laycock, Arwel Davies, Alan Jones, Ralph Griffiths and Katrina Legg.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2024 at Glamorgan Archives (previously circulated) were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.

4. Annual Report 2024-2025

The Chair announced with much pleasure that Madeleine Gray had agreed to be the new President of the Society.

The publication for 2024, being officially launched on this day, is *Amy Dillwyn's Diaries, 1863–1917* edited by Kirsti Bohata. Amy Dillwyn was a female industrialist, novelist of considerable importance in Welsh writing in English and lesbian literature. The Chair apologised to members for the late appearance of the volume largely due to family issues with which Professor Bohata had to cope late last year. Those present were looking forward to her talk at the end of official business today. The copies of her book will be posted out to members next week.

SWRS records: following the death of our late secretary, Rosemary Davies, in 2023, Tony Hopkins will be collecting the early records of the Society still held by her widower Haydn Davies and passing them to our secretary, Sian King. We shall then be able to go through the records to see what should be kept to reflect the history of the Society. These can then be transferred to one of the county record offices, and our Treasurer, Lisa Snook, has already agreed that Gwent Archives would be willing to accept them.

Social media: in common with other historical and learned societies, we have moved away from Twitter (now X) and have taken up with BlueSky which is kindly being managed by Maddy Gray

following the resignation of Katrina Legg. Maddy reported that there was a good amount of academic activity on this new platform.

Christabel Hutchings: we were saddened to hear of Christabel's death late last year. She, and her husband Richard, were pillars of the Society for many years, and latterly she handled our social media affairs. She was involved with the Monmouthshire Antiquarians, the Newport Ship and the Friends of the National Museum of Wales, amongst others. The Chair proposed that all should rise to observe a minute's silence in her memory.

5. Treasurer's Report 2024-2025

Lisa Snook reported on the annual accounts, already circulated to all members the week before the meeting. Income reflected an increase over the previous year owing to a rise in subscription rates, although there were fewer donations. Book sales have been excellent, and interest earned was also higher. Regarding expenditure, it must be noted that this shows a zero, reflecting the delay in publication of the 2024 volume which will now fall into the 2025-26 financial year. There is a small increase in website costs and other miscellaneous expenditure, as might be expected.

In conclusion, the Society is currently in a healthy position, largely thanks to last year's generous donation. The cost of the publication of the annual volume is increasing year on year, and our income is dependent on membership and book sales. So the trend, over the last few years, is that we are spending more than we are bringing in. This needs to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of the Society.

6. Publications: General Editor's Report 2024-2025

The General Editor, Ben Curtis, gave a report on past and future SWRS publications:

The Society's volume for 2024 was *The Diary of Amy Dillwyn, 1863–1917* (edited by Kirsti Bohata); it is the Society's thirty-seventh volume, and a worthy addition to the series. The publication of this volume was unfortunately delayed somewhat, occurring early in 2025 instead. The formal launch of this volume will occur here today after the AGM, and we will be fortunate to hear Professor Bohata give a talk about the volume and the extraordinary life and career of Amy Dillwyn.

The Society's next volume, to be published later this year, is edited by Richard Gaunt and is provisionally entitled *The Hafod Estate under the 4th Duke of Newcastle, 1832–1846* (ed. Richard Gaunt). The Hafod Estate in Ceredigion was made famous by Thomas Johnes (1748–1816) who developed its woodland walks, open fields, and watercourses, along picturesque principles of landscape design. Most of the existing scholarship on Hafod has concentrated on Johnes's ownership and legacy, but little attention has been paid to its sequel: the estate's purchase and subsequent ownership by Henry Pelham Fiennes Pelham Clinton, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyme (1785–1851), between 1832 and 1846. The purpose of this volume is to reproduce the duke's own account of his ownership of Hafod, as recorded in his voluminous personal diaries. These extracts have never been published before in their entirety and have largely been absent from the scholarship on Hafod. Bringing together the material in one volume will allow the importance of this period to become more apparent, and will help to restore it to its proper interest and significance. The volume's typescript is in the process of being finalised and I anticipate receiving it within the next few weeks. I have already arranged for the academic peer reviewer of this volume. As soon as I receive the typescript I will send

it for peer review, after which in due course the editor and I will ready the volume for publication towards the end of this year.

The next volume to follow this one, for which the committee has already given its consideration and approval, is “*Mother must always be there*” – *An Austerity Motherhood: The Letters of Eluned Thomas*’ (ed. Colin Thomas, who is also Eluned’s second son). The volume is based on the letters that Eluned Thomas née Davies in Carmarthen then Cardiff sent to her mother Margaret Davies in Cardigan from 1932 to 1956 provide a vivid picture of the stresses on a mother bringing up three sons during a period when Wales was slowly emerging from wartime and postwar austerity. They also provide an insight into changing attitudes to the Welsh language – although the sender and recipient of the letters were Welsh speakers, the letters are in English. Although the whole period will be reflected in the volume, the main focus will be on the letters from the years 1945 and 1950, as these best exemplify the core themes of the lived experience of postwar austerity and recovery in south Wales. I have already received a completed typescript for this volume and have passed it on to a suitably qualified expert in modern Welsh history for their academic peer review. All being well, I anticipate the production of this volume to occur quite soon after the preceding one, perhaps early in 2026.

There are other potential volumes in the pipeline for later years, for which the committee has given its provisional approval. These are:

- *The Agricultural Notebooks of Anne Evans, Highmead, Cardiganshire, 1787–1807* (ed. Michael Freeman)
- *‘These old soldiers of the mine, some of them with mutilated bodies, some minus a limb’: Industrial Disability and Injury in the South Wales Coalfield, 1901–1931* (eds Ben Curtis and Steven Thompson).

In addition to these there exist several other possibilities for future volumes, which are in the process of receiving consideration. Notwithstanding these, as ever, the committee would welcome any further suggestions from members in this regard.

7. Approval of revisions to the SWRS Constitution

All members had been circulated several weeks earlier with minor revisions to the constitution proposed by Jeff Childs. The resolution was therefore put forward by the Chair that all changes be accepted. **The members present were invited to vote, and all were in favour with no abstentions.**

The new Constitution is appended to these minutes, and will be submitted to the Charity Commission for information.

8. Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee

The following officers of the Committee were willing to continue for a further year.

President:	Madeleine Gray
Chair:	David Jenkins
Vice-Chair:	Louise Miskell
Secretary:	Sian King
General Editor:	Ben Curtis

This was agreed by those present.

There has been one resignation during the year: Katrina Legg (May 2025)

The Treasurer, Lisa Snook, had also indicated her resignation, having served for two years. The Chair expressed thanks to Lisa for her excellent work in this period. Despite several appeals, no-one had come forward to fill this essential officer role for 2025-26. Lisa had therefore agreed to remain in post until August 2025 to allow further time to find a replacement. It should be noted that Sian King had offered to look after the membership records, which should reduce the workload for the Treasurer.

The following Committee members are willing to continue for another year:

Jeff Childs
Lisa Snook
Richard Allen
Andrew Dulley
Tony Hopkins
Laura Cotton
Dylan Foster Evans
Elisabeth Bennett

This was agreed by those present.

9. Appointment of Trustees

There were currently 4 trustees of the charity:

David Jenkins
Jeff Childs
Lisa Snook
Sian King

It was agreed that these should continue

10. Any other business

Jeff Childs reported that Bangor University were proposing to make 3 of the 4 staff currently employed in Archives and Special Collections redundant as part of a widespread savings programme for the 2025/26 academic year. This could have serious consequences for the preservation of archives on the history of north Wales. A petition had been raised to object to this, and SWRS members were urged to sign using this link <https://www.change.org/p/save-your-archive-achubwch-eich-archifdy>

The Chair concluded the meeting with a warm vote of thanks for the dedicated work of all Committee members during the year.

SK 18.05.25

SOUTH WALES RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700285

The Constitution

1. The Society shall be known as the South Wales Record Society.
2. The object of the Society shall be to advance the education of the general public by promoting the study of the history of south Wales

In furtherance of the above object but not further or otherwise,

- a. the Society shall publish editions and calendars of historical records, and, where considered desirable, monographs and pamphlets, relevant to the history of south Wales,
 - b. the Society shall do all such lawful acts and things as are necessary for the above object, in collaboration with any person, body, institution, authority or otherwise.
3. Membership of the Society shall be open to any person or institution interested in the fulfilment of the Society's objects, on payment of an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined at annual meetings of the Society. As part of their subscription all members will receive a copy of the Society's published annual volume. Members will also receive the privilege of purchasing copies of the Society's publications at a discount of not less than 25 per cent off the net price of such publications.
4. The Society shall have power to accept donations for any purpose not inconsistent with its objects, and may make special appeals for funds to be used in connection with any such purposes.
5.
 - (a) The management of the Society shall be vested in a Committee consisting of a President, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, General Editor and Treasurer (who shall be officers of the Society), and nine ordinary members, provided that not more than four additional members may be co-opted on to the Committee, at its discretion, on a year-to-year basis.
 - (b) In addition, the Committee shall include the Archivists heading Glamorgan Archives, West Glamorgan Archive Service and Gwent Archives, or their representatives, and also one representative each from the Glamorgan History Society and the Gwent County History Association. The Committee may also co-opt members from other archive services, history societies and institutions of higher education in the south Wales region.
 - (c) The Committee shall meet on no fewer than two occasions in the year. At Committee meetings, six members shall constitute a quorum, of whom two shall be officers of the Society.

6.
 - (a) The President of the Society shall be elected for a term of three years. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected for terms of three years, renewable for one further term apiece. The Secretary, General Editor and Treasurer shall hold office at the discretion of the Society.
 - (b) The ordinary members of the Committee shall hold office for three years, provided that three members shall retire in each year. Retiring members shall not be eligible for re-election to the Committee until at least one year shall have elapsed.
 - (c) The Chair for the time being of the Society shall be Chair at General Meetings and Committee meetings.
7. The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all income and expenditure and shall present such accounts, duly audited, to the Annual Meeting. A bank account or accounts shall be opened in the name of the Society, and all cheques drawn on the said account(s) will require the signature of the Treasurer and one other officer.
8. The financial year of the Society shall end on 31 March. An Annual General Meeting shall be convened by the Secretary not more than ninety days thereafter, 21 days' notice being given by the Secretary in writing to each member, to receive the annual report of the Society's officers, to receive and adopt the balance sheet, to conduct such elections as may be necessary and to conduct such other business as may be necessary, ten days' notice of such business being given in writing to the Secretary.

All nominations for officers and Committee members must be received by the Secretary at least ten days before the Annual General Meeting, such nominations being signed by a member of the Society, and by the person therein nominated. All elections shall be by the members present at the Annual General Meeting.
9. The Secretary, or another member of the Committee appointed to do so, shall keep minutes of all Committee meetings and General Meetings of the Society, which the Chair for the time being shall sign as a true and accurate record of the business transacted at such meetings after the said minutes have been approved by the Committee, or in the case of minutes of a General Meeting, by the members present at the next General Meeting.
10. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society may be convened by the Committee at any time, ten days' notice in writing being given by the Secretary to members.
11. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society shall be convened by the Secretary on receipt of a request so to do from not less than twenty members of the Society.
12. This Constitution may be amended at a General Meeting of the Society by a resolution passed by no fewer than three-quarters of the membership there present and voting, save that no amendment shall be made to Clause 2, this Clause and Clause 14 without the consent of the Charity Commissioners or which would cause the Society to cease to be a charity in law.
13. All matters not hereinbefore provided for, and not involving any amendment to the constitution, shall be dealt with by the Committee of the Society.

14. The Society may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days' notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as the Society may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

Revised: May 2025