

Minutes of the AGM of the South Wales Record Society held at The Rest, Porthcawl, on Saturday 12th May 2012 at 2pm

Present: the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, General Editor, and 23 members.

1 Apologies for absence were received from David J. Harris (Ontario), Margaret D Hobbs, John Morgan-Guy, Tony Hopkins, David Jenkins, Roger Brown, Liz Parkinson, June Watson, Keith Thomas, Gwyn Rhys, Chris Soughton, Judith Jones

2 The Minutes of the AGM held on 7th May 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record with the proviso that the venue was amended to read The Glamorgan Archives.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Annual Report 2011-2012

This was circulated to all members with the notice of the AGM. The Secretary reinforced her thanks to Chris Williams our retiring General Editor and to Ray Howell our incoming General Editor who stood in at committee meetings in the absence of an elected chair. She also wished to pose the following questions:

- Do members still want book launches as attendance is noticeably poor?
- How can we publicise the society better in order to get more members?
- Can members give the society their email addresses to make contacting them easier?

5 Treasurer's Report 2012-2012

As can be seen from the accounts this year disappointingly there has been a loss of £2278 (as opposed to £1500 in the previous year). This was mainly due to the fact that this year's publication *William Downing Evans: Poetry and Poverty in Nineteenth-Century Newport* failed to sell and there was a downturn in sales generally. Postage is also a major factor and with the recent increase this is a matter we need to address and this will be covered later. There has also been a slight decline in membership with several Institutions again not renewing their membership this year. The current membership is 214; 20 of whom are Institutional members. However, very few members purchase all volumes and Institutions only take books that are relevant to their area. The stock has been split between West Glamorgan Archives and Gwent Archives, and we are grateful to Kim Collis, Gary Tuson and Tony Hopkins for their help in this matter. (The figure in the under "Archive storage" is for the cost of transporting the books from Swansea to Ebbw Vale.)

As far as future publications are concerned we are being more careful with regards to the pricing and number of volumes printed and also will be increasing the 'postage & packaging cost' to £3.00 per volume. Also publication on the internet is being considered.

The bank balance is still strong, with just over £16,300 being held in the High Interest and Community Accounts and although we need to be prudent and make sure that future publications are well received, it has been decided that two volumes will be published this year, both of which are considered to be of interest to a more general area and in the opinion of the Committee should sell well. We appreciate it is not our remit to make money, but in these tough economic times we need to make sure that we balance the books.

6 Future Publications

In his first report as General Editor Dr. Ray Howell thanked his predecessor for his hard work on the society's behalf and for handing over a healthy future publications programme.

In the pipeline currently are:

- Dr. Peter Wakelin of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales' *War Underground: The Diary of a Bevin Boy in the South Wales Coalfield*, written by the artist Michael Edmonds
- Peter Jackson's *Diaries of Margaret Jones of Garth, 1871-97*
- Lisa Tallis' edition of *Cas gan Gythraul* by T. P. an otherwise anonymous tract and our first bi-lingual publication
- Dr Kate Olson of Bangor University's edition of the Churchwarden's accounts of St. Mary's, Swansea, 1558-1627 provisionally titled *Reformation, Tradition and Transformation in a Welsh Parish*

7 Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee

At this point Louise Miskell took the chair as chairman-elect. The Secretary and Treasurer agreed to continue in their posts as did the new General Editor. Elisabeth Bennett, Lowri Jenkins and Alison Harvey were elected to the Committee for the customary three-year term with Katrina Legg and Christabel Hutchings being confirmed as co-opted members.

8 Increase in Annual Subscription

The Committee's proposal to increase the Annual Subscription to £5 was accepted by the meeting to take effect from April 2013. Gift Aid forms were being prepared to reclaim tax and members were asked to notify their banks of the new annual subscription amount so that their standing orders could be amended.

Any other business

The matter of the Charities Investment Account was raised as being beneficial to charitable societies such as ours. The Treasurer agreed to investigate this.

After the AGMs, our members along with those of the Glamorgan History Society were treated to a most interesting and entertaining presentation by Dr. Martin Johnes of Swansea University on '**Sport and the Making of the Modern Welsh Nation**'.