

Minutes of the AGM of the South Wales Record Society held in the Dockside Room at The Waterfront Museum, Swansea on Saturday 31st May 2014 at 2pm

Present: the Chairman, Secretary, and 23 members.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Ray Howell (General Editor), Richard Watson, Gwyn Rhys, Peter Henry, Jeffrey Evans, Hugh Morgan, Brian James, John Morgan-Guy, the Reverend R. and Mrs J Fisher, Keith Edwards, Maddy Gray, Rhianydd Biebrach, Rhian Phillips, Margaret Walker, David Walker, Hugh Clatworthy and Marilyn Jones

2 The Minutes of the AGM held on 11th May 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Annual Report 2013-2014

This was placed on the website along with the minutes of the 2013 AGM as advertised on the Agenda paper. As last year, no requests for hard copy to be mailed out were received.

The Secretary reiterated that the results of a questionnaire on changes to the subscription arrangements for the Society will be reported on in a separate item later in the meeting.

Please note that the Society's email address has changed to thesouthwalesrecordsociety@gmail.com This address should be used for all email correspondence with the Society. **Can members please give the Society their own email addresses to make contacting them easier?** We still have fewer than 70 such addresses out of a membership of over 200.

5 Treasurer's Report 2013-2014

As can be seen from the accounts this year we are in profit to the tune of £4673.

Although no volumes were published in this financial year, which is one of the factors that has helped towards the profit, whereas last year two volumes were published, putting the account into a loss, the sale of "War Underground" this year has almost sold out which is the main factor that has put the account into profit.

Sales of previous publications have been flat.

Disappointedly, still very few members have changed their Standing Order payment to the new subscription level of £5.00 (51 out of a total of 165 who pay by Standing Order), which means that whereas we were expecting additional income of circa £430, unless members send me the £2.00 increase there will be a shortfall of circa £220.

The current membership is 230, 27 of whom are Institutional members. However, if we exclude the 17 members did not pay last year the true number is 213 So far this year, excluding the members who did not pay last year 17 members have yet to pay. 12 of these members with email addresses have been chased and letters are being sent to the other 5. During the year 8 members resigned and 1 member passed away.

We are now registered for Gift Aid, which can be claimed from HMRC and can be claimed for the preceding 4 years. Forms were sent out to all members asking them to confirm that they are tax payers and as such Gift Aid can be claimed in respect of the subs

they pay. To date I have received 68 forms, out of a total membership, excluding Institutional members, of 203, which again is very disappointing. A claim has been lodged with HMRC for the 4 years up to end of March 2014, which will amount to a repayment of £216.00 and should be paid shortly. Forms are available today if anybody who is eligible needs one.

The High Interest Account in the Monmouthshire Building Society has yielded £270 interest this financial year and the amount now invested is £15,000 plus the interest. This will be reduced by £2,000 shortly to enable the next volume to be paid for.

Apart from the books that are being held in several wardrobes at our house, the majority of surplus stock is now housed at Gwent Archives in Ebbw Vale with the remainder at West Glamorgan Archive. Many thanks to Tony Hopkins at Ebbw Vales and Kim Collis at Swansea as this is being done at no cost to the Society.

The current account bank balance stood at £1,893 at the end of our financial year in March, with £15,406 in the Monmouthshire B.S.

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

The launch of the next Record Society publication, *The Diaries of Margaret Jones of Garth 1871-97* edited by Peter Jackson, has been scheduled for Saturday the 5th of July in the Pontardawe Arts Centre starting at 11 am. The book, which presents a range of fascinating insights, is an attractive volume in our new style format. Many thanks go to Peter for producing an excellent volume. Special thanks also go to Kim Collis who has been instrumental in the pre-publication process at all stages.

Two additional completed manuscripts are in hand. Our next book, as agreed at the last committee meeting, will be *Cas gan Gythraul* edited by Lisa Tallis. This exciting exploration of the history of the occult in South Wales will be a new departure for the Society. It will also be our first bi-lingual publication with English and Welsh versions of the text on facing pages. Also in hand is *The Gleaming Vision: William Hazell and the Co-operative Movement in South Wales, 1890-1964* edited by Alun Burge.

Other volumes in progress include *A Cardiff Ship Captain's Letter Book* edited by David Jenkins and *Relation of Apparitions by Edmund Jones the Tranch ('Prophet of Pontypool')* edited by Adam Coward.

Other titles are currently under consideration leaving the Society with a range of interesting and exciting titles to come in the next few years. These will allow us to explore many aspects of the past and attempt to respond to specific requests arising from the recent survey of members although, as will be seen below, responses were highly variable.

Member Survey (General Editor's analysis)

There were some 50 responses to the recent survey of members. Many declined to suggest future topics or areas of interest although there were a few specific recommendations which will be considered in due course.

Several who filled in the suggestions section simply responded 'as now'. Others demonstrated very wide ranging interests. For example, four respondents requested nineteenth and twentieth century topics while eight requested pre-nineteenth century titles. There were three specific requests for medieval subjects. Three respondents requested titles relating to Glamorgan while two wanted books about Gwent. There were two specific requests for volumes relating to Welsh language and literature.

Very specific geographical interests included Cardiff, Swansea and Pembrokeshire. There were expressions of interest in economic history, political parties and education. The varied interests were perhaps best summed up by the three requests for ecclesiastical history balanced against the one request not to have ecclesiastical history.

In summarising the results, it is difficult to go beyond saying that a very wide range of interest areas was identified by members responding. The best strategy seems to be maintaining a wide and varied portfolio. The range of titles reported above should enable to us to do so effectively.

7 Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee

The Chairman, Treasurer and General Editor agreed to continue but the Secretary reiterated last year's comment that she was looking to hand over to someone else as soon as that person could be found. Paul Reynolds, Richard Watson and Kerry Evans (of Gwent Archives) were elected to the Committee for the customary three-year term with David Jenkins, Gerald Gabb and Christabel Hutchings being confirmed as co-opted members. Thanks were given to all concerned. We are still left with vacancies for one committee member and one co-opted member and it was left to the committee to come up with some suggestions to fill these places.

8 Membership survey/Increase in Annual Subscription

The Committee's notice of motion for change which had been sent out with the Agenda paper was discussed and adopted - meaning that from April 2015 the subscription will be £20 to include a complimentary copy of the current year's publication.

The motion resulted from much deliberation over the future of the Society and was informed by the results of a recent member survey the results of which were as follows: 82% of those who took part in the survey supported the proposed change to an increased subscription to include a complimentary copy of the current year's publication. This follows the pattern of most other Record Societies. 80% of those agreed that the subscription be raised to £20 or £25.

A vote was taken and the motion stated above was adopted. The subscription to join the Society will therefore be £20 to include the current year's publication commencing on 1 April 2015.

9 Any other business

There was no other business.

After the AGMs, our members along with those of the Glamorgan History Society were treated to an absorbing and informative presentation from Dean Powell of Llantrisant, a well-known local author and acknowledged expert on the subject, entitled '**Eccentric - the life of Dr. William Price**'. It is a pity that not more members were present to enjoy this entertaining and enthusiastic lecture.