

Minutes of the AGM of the South Wales Record Society held at the Methodist Church, Tondy on Saturday 9th May 2015 at 2.45pm

Present: the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and about 20 members.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Ray Howell (General Editor), Maddy Gray, Rhian Phillips, David J Harris (Canada), Katrina Legg, Kim Collis, Dr. Peter Jackson, Kerry Evans, Annie Owen

2 The Minutes of the AGM held on 31st May 2014 were approved and signed as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

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

4 Annual Report 2014-15

This was placed on the website along with the minutes of the 2014 AGM as advertised on the Agenda paper. As last year, no requests for hard copy to be mailed out were received.

The Secretary ran briefly through the report highlighting the change in the funding of the society and the subscription change to £20 (entitling each member to a complimentary copy of the current year's publication). She emphasised that those wishing to remain members but who have not yet amended their standing orders (or paid the treasurer by cheque) should do so as soon as possible to ensure continuity of membership. 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 was due in no small part to Andrew Dulley for maintaining it. Louise added that the society was active on social media and urged members to visit us on Facebook or twitter.

5 Treasurer's Report 2014-2015

As can be seen from the accounts this year there is a loss of £935.00

Subscriptions were down and the volume that was published during the year was very costly to produce and did not sell well. This meant that the £2000.00 I transferred from the Mon B S account to pay for the publication was not covered by the volume sales.

Sale of volumes for the year totalled £2700. One third of this income was for previous volumes and two thirds for the latest volume. Therefore there has been a loss so far of £2500 on the latest volume. Costings and number of volumes to be produced for future volumes is now being looked at in greater detail to ensure that losses like this do not occur again.

The claim that I lodged for Gift Aid for the previous 4 years and the 2014 financial year has been paid and yielded £300.00.

The 2015 financial year heralds the change in subscription from £5.00 to £20.00 which includes members receiving a free volume that is published in that year.

The total recorded membership is now 146 several having resigned or dropped out. So far 68 (48%) members have paid the increase subscription with 12 Institutional members also agreeing to do so. I will be chasing the remaining 52% of the membership to see if they are going to take up membership at the new rate (the majority of whom, who have paid, have not even increased their sub from £3.00).

Also only 54 (37%) members have provided me with email addresses and of those who haven't paid the new sub, I only have email addresses for 16.

A further Gift Aid claim will be submit for this financial year, but even though some of the members, who are registered for Gift Aid, have increased their subscription to the new rate of £20.00, under HMRC rules only 25% of this subscription can be claimed, as the subscription includes for a volume to be provided at no cost to the member.

The High Interest Account in the Monmouthshire Building Society has yielded £198 interest this financial year. As I mentioned last year I needed to withdraw £2000.00 from the BS account to pay for the volume that was published during the year and the amount now invested is £13,604.00, which includes the interest mentioned above.

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 £2,760 at the end of our financial year in March, with £13604 in the Monmouthshire B.S.

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

In the absence of the General Editor the chairman outlined the present situation faced by the society.

We are currently seeking a new General Editor as Ray Howell the present General Editor is unable, for personal reasons, to continue in post beyond the culmination of the current year's volume which will be *Cas gan Gythraul* edited by Lisa Tallis. It was hoped that this volume would be available at the AGM but this has not been the case. Proofs are currently being checked and a draft of the cover will be available shortly. 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. Other volumes in progress include *A Cardiff Ship Captain's Letter Book* edited by David Jenkins, which will be the 2016 publication, followed by *Relation of Apparitions by Edmund Jones the Tranch ('Prophet of Pontypool')* edited by Adam Coward. Louise asked David to say a little about his volume which will be the Society's first on a maritime theme. An analysis of the Ship Captain's Letter Book is aimed to illuminate maritime trade to and from south Wales and to examine his life in the maritime community.

Other titles are currently under consideration leaving the Society with a range of interesting and exciting titles to come in the next few years.

We are extremely grateful to Ray for the all the hard work he has done over his period as General Editor at a time of change for the society and wish him well.

7 Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee

The Chairman Louise Miskell stood down at this meeting after a three year period and was replaced by the committee's nomination, Jeff Childs. As stated above, the General Editor was standing down after the conclusion of the present volume and the committee was actively considering a replacement. The Treasurer and Secretary agreed to continue for the time being but with the proviso that they would hand over to someone else as

soon as that person could be found. The Secretary re-iterated that the Society was facing a period of change and some uncertainty with the change in the subscription rate and potential complete change of officers but hoped that stability would be maintained despite all the changes. Louise Miskell, David Jenkins and Richard Edwards (Librarian at St. Fagan's) were elected to the Committee for the customary three-year term with Elisabeth Bennett, Gerald Gabb and Christabel Hutchings being confirmed as co-opted members. Thanks were given to all officers and committee members for their support during the past year. We are still potentially left with a vacancy for one co-opted member as we can co-opt up to four at the discretion of the committee.

8 Increase in Annual Subscription

Other than the Secretary re-emphasising the importance of members paying the correct subscription rate to maintain their membership, it was not felt necessary to discuss this item further; 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

The Secretary raised the question of suitable AGM meeting places as The Rest in Porthcawl was no longer an option. The present venue at Tondu was generally approved though a microphone or some alternative form of amplification would be necessary to overcome the problem of the poor acoustics in the chapel itself. It was felt that a venue that was central was fairer than one at either end of the south Wales area.

Jeff Childs, the incoming Chairman, thanked the committee for proposing and the meeting for approving his election to the Chair which he considered a great honour.

After the AGMs, we joined with members of the Glamorgan History Society for an interesting and informative presentation from Adam Chapman of the Victoria County History on **The contribution of Welsh archers, especially those from Glamorgan, to the Agincourt campaign of 1415**. As last year, it is a pity that more members of both societies were not present to enjoy this entertaining and enthusiastic lecture.