

Minutes of the AGM of the South Wales Record Society held at the Methodist Church, Tondy on Saturday 13th May 2017 at 2.45 pm

Present: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, General Editor and about 25 members.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Tony Hopkins, Kim Collis, Richard Watson, Katrina Legg, David Jenkins, and Rod Cooper

2. The Minutes of the AGM held 21st May 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

-Raised under item 8 (AOB) of last year Jeff Childs brought the meeting up-to-date with the position of the local studies collection held by Cardiff Library. The unit had been relocated to Cathays Library but it was not known how much space had been allocated for it. The matter of the housing/location of Cardiff Library's 'Historic Collections' had not yet been resolved.

4. Annual Report 2016/17

This was placed on the website along with the minutes of the 2016 AGM as advertised on the agenda paper. One request for the papers to be sent by email had been received with Professor Louise Miskell commenting that perhaps it would be appropriate to email papers out with the agenda.

The Secretary ran briefly through the report highlighting committee and officer changes and thanked those retirees for their sterling work for the Society. She also commented on the most successful launch of 'I hope to have a good passage...' at Swansea Museum and thanked Dr David Jenkins, the volume editor, and all other concerned. 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 were due in no small part to Andrew Dulley for maintaining it. The Society continued to be active on social media and she urged members to visit us on the website as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

5. Treasurer's Report 2016/17

The Treasurer reported that as could be seen from the accounts this year there was a loss of £1,282 this year, which was due in the main to the publication cost for this year's volume.

Subscriptions declined slightly due to resignations of members and also cancellation by members who were previously paying £3.00 or £5.00. There were now 72 individual members and 11 institutional members paying the full subscription of £20.00. (£17.50 sub, plus £2.50 p&p) The Society was also still receiving payments of £3.00 and £5.00 from previous members who had not cancelled their standing orders. These payments were being treated as donations, but included in the "Subscriptions" in the accounts.

Publication costs for volume 29 – 'Have a Good Passage' edited by David Jenkins was £4,321. The total sales of this and other volumes, taking into account that 83 members, were provided with a volume as part of their subscription (83 x £17.50 = £1,453) plus sales recorded of £1,844, was £3,297. (Sales of Vol 29 - £2,557.50)

We were now not able to claim Gift Aid from HMRC, as under the new Charity Commission rule which stated: 'If the benefit received by a member exceeds 25% of the donation (subscription) then Gift Aid cannot be claimed. Therefore as 25% of the subscription would be £4.38 (25% of £17.50) and the benefit received by the member is £17.50', it can be seen in our case, that Gift Aid cannot be claimed.

Also, only 40 (56%) of the full members had provided the Treasurer with email addresses, which was fairly good, but still meant we have to mail out information to members who do not have emails.

The current account bank balance stood at £2,766 at the end of the financial year while the high interest account in the Monmouthshire Building Society has yielded £115.00 interest this financial year. The amount now invested is £13,864.00, which included the interest mentioned above.

Apart from some books that are being held at the Treasurer's house, the majority of surplus stock was stored at Gwent Archives in Ebbw Vale with the remainder at West Glamorgan Archive Service. The Treasurer thanked Tony Hopkins at Ebbw Vales and Kim Collis at Swansea for providing this storage particularly as this was being done at no cost to the Society.

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

The SWRS's publication for 2016 was David Jenkins (ed.), *I Hope To Have A Good Passage: The Business Letters of Captain Daniel Jenkins, 1902-11*. It was launched at a successful and well-attended event at the National Waterfront Museum on 10 December 2016. David Jenkins gave an interesting and entertaining talk, which was very well received.

The SWRS's publication for 2017 will be Adam Coward (ed.), *A Spiritual Botany: Shewing What of God Appears in the Herbs of the Earth; together with some of their natural Virtues and Vices: in Blank Verse and Rhime* by Edmund Jones, a historically significant 18th-century Independent preacher from the Pontypool area. It was a complex and multi-faceted work conveying many interesting insights into revivalist religiosity, herbalism and medicine in late 18th-century Wales. Its detailed introduction would however greatly aid the interested general reader in fully appreciating and understanding the significance of the text. The typescript was in the final stages of editing and preparation, with publication of the volume being intended for approximately September 2017.

The volume for 2018 will be the WWI war diary of Charley Heare, a soldier from the Monmouthshire valleys. This volume was to be edited by Christabel Hutchings and Richard Frame and will be a really fascinating publication. Work on it was well advanced and the authors intended to complete the editing of the typescript by the end of 2017.

Some other proposals for publication in future years were also outlined and the General Editor was always keen to consider any other proposals which prospective editors may wish to bring to the attention of the committee.

7. Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee

All officers agreed to continue to serve on the committee with the proviso that the Treasurer and Secretary would hand over to prospective successors as soon as suitable candidates could be found. The Secretary re-iterated that although the Society was facing a period of change she nevertheless hoped that stability would be maintained. Drs Katrina Legg, Simon John and Lisa Tallis were elected to the Committee for the customary three-year term as well as Professor Madeleine Gray who would be filling a one-year vacancy. Dr Richard Watson, Kerry Evans and Christabel Hutchings were confirmed as co-opted members. That left one place for a co-opted member at the discretion of the committee. Thanks, were given to all officers and committee members for their support during the past year.

8. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.15 pm.

After the AGMs, we joined with members of the Glamorgan History Society for an interesting and informative presentation from Paul Frame entitled '*Liberty's apostle: the life and times of Richard Price, 1723-91*' As was the case last year, it was a pity that more members of both societies were not present to enjoy what was a most entertaining and enthusiastically delivered lecture.