

OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 275891

Annual General Meeting 24 June 2019

at the Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB

Minutes

1. In the presence of the Society's Treasurer, Steve Pickthall, the Chairman, Malcolm Austen, called the meeting to order at 8:02pm. He explained that the Society's President, Hugh Kearsey, was feeling unwell and was not present. He welcomed 72 members to the Society's 2019 Annual General Meeting, reminding any persons present who were not members that, should there be a vote, they were not eligible to participate.
2. The Chairman, on behalf of the meeting, expressed his grateful thanks for Hugh's continuing involvement with our Society. He then presented apologies for absence from Kevin and Wendy Poile, June Whipp, Tim Emptage, as well as from Hugh and Jean Kearsey.
3. The Chairman noted that the Minutes of the 2018 AGM had been available to members on printed sheets before the meeting and invited comments. As there were none, he asked that the Minutes be agreed and accepted as a true record. This was done on a proposal by Margaret Meardon seconded by Hilary Chalmers.
4. The Society's 43rd Annual Report for the year 2018 was presented by the Chairman, Malcolm Austen.

He started by saying that 2018 was a period of stability on the committee. However, in 2019 there had been resignations from Angie Truman, OFHS Secretary, and Steve Pickthall, OFHS Treasurer. He thanked them for their contributions. They had been replaced by Gay Sturt and Mike Walker in their respective posts.

He thanked Dave Broughton, Projects Co-ordinator, and all the other individuals who contributed to the many projects in progress. He mentioned that the scans of Oxfordshire Parish Registers on Ancestry were delivering a useful income stream. The scanning of Minn and Buckler images was in progress, as was the recording of monuments in various churchyards. The Wills Library continued to expand thanks to the hard work of Dave Beames.

Christopher Fance was thanked for organising speakers for the main meetings in Exeter Hall and Margaret and Maurice Meardon were thanked for providing the refreshments. The Computer Group was also thanked for arranging its series of meetings.

The Journal flourished thanks to the efforts of the Editor, Sue Honoré, and the contributors. Thanks were given to June Whipp for her work on sales, to John Cramer and many others for their contributions to events at which OFHS was represented, to Angie Truman, Stella Wentworth, Dave Wedd and many others for the successful organisation and running of the OFHS Fair in Woodstock.

There had been a continuing review of publicity arrangements, which will be ongoing. The Chairman asked members to put forward their own ideas. There was also a continuing review of strategy, to see what areas needed to be improved or introduced and also to see if there were areas which were no longer needed.

The planning of the rebuilding of the website continued.

Questions were then invited from those present. After the Chairman had answered a question about the audio system in Exeter Hall, the Chairman's report was accepted on a proposal put forward by Becky Vickers

and seconded by Mary Newland.

5. The Chairman then invited the Treasurer, Steve Pickthall, to present the Accounts for 2018, mentioning that they were displayed on the screen in the hall.

The Society accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 showed that there was a deficit of £8,427 compared with a deficit of £430 in 2017.

The Treasurer explained that the deficit was partly caused by the timing of some large payments just before or after the year end. In some years payments for items in that year were made at the start of the next year. With online banking it was easier to pay accounts when they were actually presented. This was a factor for 2018.

Once again the Executive Committee had decided not to increase membership rates for much the same reasons as in previous years. There has continued to be a fall in membership numbers, and in the light of that, and of the Society's healthy financial position, it was considered that it would not be appropriate to raise subscriptions.

The trustees aimed to continue to be in a financial position to undertake further projects within the county of Oxfordshire and also to be able to assist with research and education in the future. In particular, they were looking to invest in further scanning projects.

The accounts had been agreed by the Independent Examiner and been on display to members present prior to the meeting.

After the questions about the accounts and Ancestry, they were accepted on a proposal made by Maurice Meardon and seconded by Mike Walker.

6. The Chairman thanked Steve Pickthall for his work as Treasurer and then in the absence of the President, Hugh Kearsey, he conducted the election of the officers and members of the executive committee for 2019-2020.

The executive committee had nominated the following as the society's officers for the 2019-2020 year: -

Malcolm Austen for the position of Chairman.

Gay Sturt for the position of Secretary.

Mike Walker for the position of Treasurer

Sue Honoré for the position of Editor.

He explained that as no other nominations for the positions of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor had been received by the secretary the candidates were elected unopposed in accordance with the constitution.

He went on to explain that in addition to the elected officers, the society's constitution provided for the executive committee to have up to a further eight members. Mike Walker had been co-opted during the 2018-2019 year. As he had just been elected Treasurer, five of the society's remaining current executive committee members were available and eligible for re-election. They had been duly nominated according to the constitution. They were asked to stand to be introduced to the attending members.

Dave Broughton
John Cramer
Christopher Fance
Susan Mattheus
Kevin Poile

A show of hands of the members present approved en bloc the election of the 2019-2020 executive committee.

7. The Chairman stated that, as a registered charity with a modest turnover, the society was required to appoint an Independent Examiner for the Society's annual accounts. In the past this had been done by the Executive Committee but it seemed sensible for the AGM to make the decision. Members present approved the re-appointment of Mr TK Hobbs of Messrs Chapman Robinson and Moore as Independent Examiner on a proposal made by Steve Pickthall and seconded by Becky Vickers.

8. Finally, certificates were awarded to Mary Ecclestone and Wendy and Nick Archer to commemorate their long membership of OFHS.

The Chairman formally closed the meeting at 8:35pm and then invited any questions from the floor. He answered questions about publicity.

Sue Honoré was then introduced as the speaker for the second part of the meeting. She presented a talk entitled 'The Oxfordshire Surname Project'.