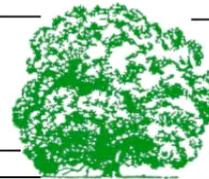


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# THE SOMERSET AND DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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President: Sir MERVYN MEDLYCOTT Bt. F.S.G.

Registered Charity No. 1010351

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## Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 at Queen Elizabeth School, Wimborne

### 1. President's Welcome

The President, Sir Mervyn Medlycott opened the meeting at 3.48 pm and welcomed the 42 members who were present.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Iain Swinnerton, Patricia Spencer, Iain Parsons, Rose Figgins, Peter Meech, Bob Steed, Colin Tinknell & Ann-Marie Wilkinson.

### 3. Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 at Cheddon Fitzpaine.

The minutes were read out by the Secretary. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Heather Brannon, seconded by Sue Burne and were **carried unanimously**.

### 4. Matters Arising

There were none.

### 5. Chairman's Report – Ann-Marie Wilkinson

In Ann-Marie's absence the report was read out by the Secretary.

The first paragraph of my report is very repetitive, as usual we have had a very busy year and I thank all the volunteers who have freely given of their time to help the society. The society is run by volunteers and we are always looking for new ones. This year our Treasurer, Rose, is giving up and we are looking for someone with a financial background to be our new Treasurer. Our webmaster, Patricia, is also giving up. If you are interested in either of these jobs then speak to one of the Officers who will be able to discuss the jobs with you. Training in the use of sage and web tools will be provided by the society if needed.

Last year I mentioned that we were looking to downsize our Headquarters and Research Centre. At the end of 2017 we made the move to Broadway House in Yeovil. With the help of many volunteers the contents of the Sherborne premises were packed up and moved or disposed of. We are now settled into the new building and have welcomed many new faces since we moved. We were concerned that our visitor numbers would drop as a result of the move, but quite the opposite has happened and we have been so busy that we are planning on opening more often. Keep an eye on the website for our new winter opening hours.

The website is continuing to attract visitors and I thank all the contributors to our blogs, Facebook pages and Twitter feeds.

Publications continue to sell and we are always looking for new titles. We are adding more items to our online shop when we can. This year saw the publication of the long-awaited book on Somerset Photographers by Robin Ansell, Allan Collier and Phil Nichols. I hope you have visited the publications table at this meeting, if not then look on the website where details of our publications are listed. We have been approached by a

couple of local authors to publish their books so look for further new titles during this year.

Our local groups continue to meet on a regular basis and all welcome visitors to their meetings. They have varied programmes which are listed on the website and in the Greenwood Tree. Some groups do Family History sessions in their local libraries. I personally am involved in such sessions at Burnham on Sea and Wells libraries as well as giving talks to local organisations like the WI.

I have also been attending meeting of the South West Heritage Trust Advisory Group on behalf of the society with meetings alternating between Exeter and Taunton.

I would like to thank the team from the East Dorset group who have done an excellent job is organising this AGM.

## **6. Treasurer's Report – Rose Figgins**

In Rose's absence, the report was read out by the Secretary:

I am pleased to report that 2017 proved to be an exceptional year for us financially. This was due to two items of income received by the Society.

The first, as I reported in my Treasurer's Report at last year's AGM was a one-off payment of £48K we received from The Genealogist for the supply of over million records for their website. Our thanks go to John Damon, our Centre manager, for all his hard work in enabling this to happen.

The second, was a generous donation of £10k from a Society member, who wishes to remain anonymous, to cover any expenditure incurred in the moving the Centre from Sherborne to Yeovil.

Without these two items of income the Society would have made an overall loss in 2017; the first time since 2013. The £48k windfall more than covered a potential trading loss of approx. £3K, and the £10k donation for moving expenses saved a further loss of £7k.

As you can see from the abridged accounts circulated with the September Greenwood Tree, our total income for the was £97.5k; the £48k being included under Society Services, but all sources of income apart from that were down on the previous year. On the expenditure side, we spent £52.5k; being £3k more than the previous year, mostly on Administration, which includes the running costs of the Centre.

We were thus left with a profit of £45k, and it was therefore decided by the Executive to move £42k of this into a Contingency Fund, which we can draw down over coming years when needed, resulting in the overall profit at the end of the year being in the order of £3k.

Looking forward to 2018, our Centre running costs have been almost halved as a result of our move of premises from Sherborne to Yeovil, and therefore, we do not expect to make a loss this year and for the foreseeable future. A very healthy financial position for the Society to be in!

Acceptance proposed by Sylvia Creed-Castle, seconded by Delia Horsfall **carried unanimously**.

## **7. Appointment of Examiners**

The Secretary proposed that Mr Malvern Carvell of Milborne Port should continue to be the Examiner. Seconded by Pat Adamson and **carried unanimously**.

## **8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee**

**Chairman:**

Ann-Marie Wilkinson

**Vice Chairman (Somerset):**

**No nomination**

**Vice Chairman (Dorset):** Jennie McGowan  
**Treasurer:** **No nomination**  
**Secretary:** Ted Udall

**Executive Committee**

**a) Groups**

Blackmore Vale:	Jacqui Wragg	East Dorset:	John Damon
South Dorset:	Jennie McGowan	West Dorset:	Sylvia Creed-Castle
Mid Somerset:	Peter Welch	West Somerset:	Jane Sharp
Taunton:	David Brown	Yeovil:	Ted Udall

**Sub-Committee members** (not elsewhere shown):

Editor	Paul Radford
H & S Rep	John Brooking

The above named being willing to continue in post and there being no other nominations, it was proposed by the Secretary and seconded by Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard that they continue for a further year. **Carried unanimously**

**9. Nominations for Vice presidents and Life Members**

**Vice Presidents:** David Hawkings, Terry Farmer, Colin Dean, (John Howick has died since the last AGM)

There were no further nominations.

**Life members:**

Alan Brown  
Florence Chuk  
Murial Monk  
Bob Steed  
Iain Swinnerton  
Brian Webber  
John Boys  
Delia Horsfall

Brian Webber proposed that Delia Horsfall be elected a Life Member in recognition of her work for the Society over many years. This was seconded by John Tanner and **unanimously approved** by the members.

**10. Closure of Business**

The meeting closed at 4.05 pm.

Next AGM will be held in Dunster, Somerset on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....