



Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 23rd September 2017 at Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

1. President's Welcome

The President, Sir Mervyn Medlycott opened the meeting at 3.15 pm and welcomed the 46 members who were present.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Iain Swinnerton, Patricia Spencer, Jennie McGowan, Rose Figgins, Lin Hoddinott, John Damon & Colin Dean.

3. Minutes of the 41st AGM held on 24th September 2016 at Sturminster Newton.

The minutes were read out by the Secretary and were then passed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

From Item 9 (Note 2): The Secretary reported that Miss M. E. Holmes had died shortly before the last AGM and had therefore been removed from the list of Life Members.

5. Chairman's Report – Ann-Marie Wilkinson

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. This year we are saying good-bye to another of our stalwarts. After a number of years as Editor of "The Greenwood Tree" Bob Barber has decided to give up and we are pleased to welcome Paul Radford in his place. As you know the magazine is only as good as its contributors so please keep those articles flowing in. "The Greenwood Tree" is available in the members' area of the website in colour.

Last year I mentioned that we needed to keep a tight rein on our finances and that we were looking at our options as far as the lease of the Research Centre went. We have now given notice on the Sherborne premises and I know that many of you will have noticed the "To Let" board up when you have visited the Centre. We have been looking for other locations within 20 miles and John Damon and his team have been very busy on the Society's behalf trying to find us somewhere large enough for our needs, but smaller and cheaper than Sherborne. I'm pleased to say that we are now in negotiations to secure a place in Yeovil and hope to take up the lease at the beginning of November. There will then follow a busy month packing everything up and sorting it all out. We have been generously donated £10,000 to pay for the move.

We have been preparing for a move to smaller premises since the beginning of the year and I thank all our volunteers who have given up time to sort out the library and dispose of all the items we no longer need. Thanks to those who have been pruning the Library and organising a book sale which realised over £1,000. I must thank all the volunteers who have given up so much time to help in Sherbourne over the 11 years we have been

there, and hope that many of them will continue to help when we move to Yeovil. It has been proposed that we start a Sherborne group in the New Year and I hope that they will support it.

John Damon took over the job looking after the building in Sherborne from Barry Brock and has been busy doing that. He has also found time to work with John Tanner to sort out a large amount of data which we have now placed on the Genealogist website. This has realised a substantial on-off payment from them which means that our finances now look a lot rosier. It also means that we can provide researchers access to the Genealogist website in our research centre.

Publications continue to sell and we are always looking for new titles. We are adding more items to our online shop when we can and we are hoping that the pending move will not affect our ability to process orders and membership renewals.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the society for their hard work during the year - all those who give up their time to help the Society in various ways too numerous to mention. I would also like to thank Sue and her team from the Taunton group who have organised this AGM.

6. Treasurer's Report – Rose Figgins

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

I am pleased to be able to report that, for the third year in a row, we made a profit in 2016. You would all have seen the abridged accounts circulated with the September Greenwood Tree, and a full copy of the accounts is available to view on our website. A few copies of the full accounts are also available to here today, if any one wishes to see them after the meeting.

To summarise the accounts for 2016, we have made an operating profit of £1,933, despite a fall in Income from £64K in 2015 to £51.5K in 2016. The reduction in Income was the result of an approximate 12% fall in subscriptions for 2016, which also impacted on the level of Gift Aid claimable; a 28% drop in income for Society Services, the income provided by our Research Centre and that generated by our On-Line Services being the main culprits; a 15% fall in the sale of Books and Publications; and a 30% fall in Miscellaneous Services.

To counter balance this drop in income, we have managed to reduce our overall expenditure by £6k to that of £49.5k in 2016 compared to £55.7k in 2015. Specifically, Greenwood tree costs fell by 11%, expenditure on Books and Publications reduced by 33%; the cost of Society Services and projects reduced by 51%; funds to Groups down by 39%; and Administrative costs down by 8%.

During 2016 we also utilised £400 of our unrestricted funds, namely the David Chant Bequest, to upgrade our accounting software and purchase a small printer. Finally, I would like to briefly mention that the prospects for profitability in 2017 look excellent. This is due to the hard work of John Damon, our Centre Manager, who has initiated and has overseen the supply of over a million records to The Genealogist website resulting in a windfall of over £48K in revenue, which has already been deposited to our bank. Furthermore, we have recently received an anonymous donation of £10k to cover any expenses involved in our impending move of premises. I look forward to reporting on all this next year!

Proposer: Ted Udall. Seconder: 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 John Tanner and **carried unanimously**.

8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

<u>Chairman:</u>	Ann-Marie Wilkinson
<u>Vice Chairman (Somerset):</u>	No nomination
<u>Vice Chairman (Dorset):</u>	Jennie McGowan
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Rose Figgins
<u>Secretary:</u>	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	Bob Barber
Webmaster	Patricia Spencer
H & S Rep	John Brooking

The above named being willing to continue in post and there being no other nominations, it was proposed by Brian Webber and seconded by Dorothy Bower 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
There were no further nominations.

Life members:

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

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 3.40 pm. The next AGM will be held at Queen Elizabeth School, Blandford Road, Wimborne on 22nd September 2018.

Signed: Dated: