



North West Kent Family History Society

(Covering N W Kent and ancient Kent parishes now S E London)

**Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting
Held at Cobham Hall, Cobham near Gravesend,
Kent DA12 3BL
Thursday 7th April 2016 at 12 noon**

Present:

David Cufley, President with 104 members and 5 visitors.

Minute Secretary: Angela Bevan

David Cufley, Chair of the Meeting, welcomed members.

Angela Bevan, the Minute Secretary of the Society was asked to convene the meeting.

1. Notice Convening the Meeting

Read by Angela Bevan.

2. Apologies

Stephen Archer, Barbara Attwaters, Peter Crawley, Dennis Easy, Eileen Eves, Walter Eves, Gillian Hakli, John Henderson, Sarah Ingle, Shirley Kell, Linda Meaden, Audrey Rainer, Malcolm Rainer, Sue Pittman, Celia Reed, Frank Reed, Louise Scott, Jean Stirk, Mike Weeks

3. Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting (copies available on the website from September 2015)

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Fran Rogers and seconded by Janet Rose. David Turner abstained from voting to accept the minutes, as he had not been present at the meeting. All other members agreed the minutes.

It was noted that AGM minutes are no longer published in the Journal but put on the Website.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 2015 AGM

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2015 (attached to these minutes)

Pat Gooding the treasurer explained that last year the society was £2528 in deficit. However, the design of the new website had cost £550 as an advance payment. The rest of the money was for the rental of the library.

Joyce Hoad a Vice President questioned why the Society for the last two years had paid about £1500 for storage. It was explained that the committee was looking into a cheaper storage unit to keep all the six years of accounts and other papers. The President explained that previously there had been no figures as he had arranged for

private storage, which had been free. This was no longer available to the society and they now had to pay for storage elsewhere. The chair suggested if anyone wished to offer free storage that was secure and damp free to the society, we would be most grateful. Bob Woodward said that he had opened the society storage several years ago. It was a very small storage facility. Janet Rose pointed out that the society needed a considerable storage space. Fran Rogers agreed that it was good that the committee were looking at other cheaper ways of storage.

Acceptance of the Accounts

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Bob Woodward and seconded by Maureen Griffiths. The accounts were approved unanimously.

6. Report of the Committee for 2015 (circulated with the March 2016 journal)

Tony Codling; a trustee; presented a summary of the report as Walter Eves the Chair was unable to attend due to illness.

There were no questions from members regarding the report.

The acceptance of the report was proposed by Tony Lathey and seconded by Ray Gooding. This was unanimously agreed.

7. Josephine Birchenough Memorial Awards

The awards criteria set out as part of 2014's report was for three categories of award: -

Project.

Awarded to a person or persons who wish to follow some form of research or carry out a specific family history project, which fulfils the objects of the Society. For this category, members must apply by completing the application form and sending it to the Presidents Panel for them to be considered. The panel received no applications this year for this category.

Articles

The President's panel judged all **Articles** in the Society Journal, as outlined below. All published articles in the Journal were considered and no application was necessary.

To recognise or support significant work that contributes to the Society and its objects.

Any two members, a proposer and seconder must submit recommendations to the Trustees or the President's Panel. The President's Panel will judge the recommendations. No recommendations were made up to the 22nd January 2016.

The President's panel considered all the articles published in the Society Journal, during 2015, using the following criteria that reflect the aims of the Society to help members further their family history research. An interesting read, methodology, sources and their location, demonstration how information is confirmed, overcoming problems and pitfalls found all with simple family trees. This year there were 25 articles considered.

Social background and the use of references as an aid to other members and is part of our aims and objectives. The Presidents panel commended the authors of the four

short articles **Michael Austin, Tony Brown, Barry Langridge** and **Louis Scott** for their “snap shot” pieces giving the background to their research.

The final decision by the panel was that two authors' articles by **Gillian Hakil nee Doherty** and **Sarah Ingle** were equal and were awarded the first prize of £60 each. Three articles by **Dennis Easy, John Henderson** and **Raymer Lofts** we highly commend. All were a good read and met most of the criteria, with the winners bringing a different slant to their articles.

The Presidents panel would like to thank all the authors for their articles published in 2015. We appreciate the effort they put into sharing their family history research with our members. To the award winners we send our congratulations on their work, which we are sure Josephine Birchenough would have echoed.

8. **Honorary Members**

There were no honorary members selected this year.

Stephen Archer, Vera Bailey, Walter Eves and David Williams were awarded ‘thank you’ certificates. Members of the committee will present the certificates as the recipients were not present.

Joyce Hoad (Vice President) asked that her thanks be recorded to Stephen Archer for his many years of input for NW Kent in many capacities beside being the first Web master – which won a prize awarded by the FED FHS. Joyce Hoad then asked the floor to join her in recording their appreciation.

Guy Nevill; an ex-Chair and ex-Vice President then offered his thanks and appreciation to Stephen Archer who had since the early days of the society provided his computer expertise to our data processing and publications and had been our Web Master until recently.

9. **President and Vice Presidents**

The Committee had appointed David Cufley as President for four years, which is still current. The Vice Presidents terms were similarly current except for Dr Susan Pittman who had accepted her re-appointment as a Vice President.

10. **Election of Chair**

Walter Eves had stepped down as the Chair.

Tony Codling was proposed as Chair by Fran Rogers and seconded by Pat Gooding. He was unanimously elected.

11. **Election of Vice Chair**

Mike Weeks had been proposed by Angela Bevan and seconded by Sheila Elisak. He was unanimously elected.

12. **Election of Secretary**

This position had been remained vacant after the resignation of Vera Bailey. The Chair thanked Angela Bevan for acting as the minute secretary. Stella Eames had offered herself for the position of secretary. She was proposed by Tony Codling and seconded by David Cufley.

She was unanimously elected.

13. Election of Treasurer

Pat Gooding was proposed by Lorraine King and seconded by Raymer Lofts. She was elected unanimously.

14. Election of Other Committee Members

The members agreed to vote for other Executive Members en-bloc.

Janet Rose acting as Librarian, proposed by Tony Brown, seconded by David Turner.

Barbara Phillips acting as Publications and Project Co-ordinator, proposed by Maureen Wilkins seconded by Raymer Lofts.

Barbara Attwaters proposed by Karina Jackson, seconded by Barbara Stead.

Fran Rogers proposed by Joyce Hoad and seconded by Tony Brown.

The meeting elected the committee members unanimously.

The Chair explained that the individual branches elected the three Branch Representatives and these people would form, with the above elected members, the Society Committee. It was noted that at the present time the Bromley branch does not have a designated representative.

The committee is also made up with two ex-officio members, this the Chair explained means they are full members of the Society Committee by the jobs they undertake on behalf of the Society.

Pauline Heathcote was confirmed as Journal Editor, ex-officio.

Christina Barnett was confirmed as Membership Secretary, ex-officio.

15. Election of Independent Examiner

David Williams had resigned as the independent examiner.

Terry King having offered himself as independent examiner was proposed by Janet Rose and seconded by Tony Codling.

The members unanimously elected Terry King as the Independent Examiner.

16. Any Other Business

Research

Angela Brandreth-Cook explained that, as Stella Baggley was no longer able to organise visits to the London Archives to carry out research and asked would this continue? The Editor replied that this was on the agenda for the Trustees Meeting.

Hilary Waters pointed out that the late Jean Carter organised coach trips to Kew for members to carrying out research. Christine Hill explained that they were now unable to do this due to the cost of travel. Tony Codling agreed that if there were sufficient numbers of people interested they could look at the cheaper options available.

Christine Hill pointed out in order to research for members outside the area they could coordinate a network of members to provide this service.

Attendance at Branch Meetings

Christine Hill asked how many people at the AGM today did not attend branch meetings. She explained that she wanted to know the answer to this as it affects book sales. Eight members present at the AGM did not attend branch meetings.

Increase in Subscriptions

Nigel Durrant asked that as the society had a deficit this year maybe they needed to think about increasing the subscription. The Treasurer pointed out that if the

members were UK taxpayers they could gift aid to the society, which provided an additional 25% i.e. £2.50. Expenses were going up but also a decrease in members had an adverse effect on the society's income. Tony Codling explained that the Trustees would be reviewing all costs to the society to find out if they were getting value for money. There was a healthy reserve. They were reluctance on the committee to put up fees, as they did not wish to lose members. In the future, they will consider charging to view certain parts of the website. Joyce Hoad a Vice President said she had looked at the profit of the society. Over seven years they had made £6106. There had been a profit of £2503 over the last three year. The President explained that all family history societies were affected by a fall in income. Hilary Waters pointed out that Dartboard highlighted other societies in the area. She said this society was at the lower end of subscription charges. They were normally between £15 and £18. The Editor explained that on the membership renewal form there was a space for a donation. The Treasurer agreed that some people paid more on their subscription standing order. Trevor Allan urged that if they were moving to a digital society the trustees should consider what would happen if they do not generate an income from Findmypast but instead use their own website. The Treasurer said that the income from Findmypast in 2015 was £715 for the society. Bob Woodward asked if it was now the thing to have a direct debit for the subscription. The Treasurer explained that some people did not like direct debits as the amount being paid can be changed by the society. She would be reluctant to use direct debits for the society, but it was up to the trustees to make that decision.

Journal

The Editor asked for more contributions to the journal.

Event

Trevor Allan pointed out that there was a history talk by a plastic surgeon at Queen Marys Hospital at the community event in Sidcup High Street.

There being no further business, David Cufley closed the meeting by thanking the members for their attendance and the Society Committee and all the task holders for their hard work over the past twelve months. He congratulated the new committee on their election and wished them all the very best for the coming year.

Meeting closed at 13.00.