



North West Kent Family History Society.
(Covering N. W. Kent and the ancient parishes now in S.E. London)
Founded 1978. Registered Charity No. 282627

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting.
Held at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road, Sevenoaks,
Kent TN14 5DN
On Saturday 25th April 2015 at 12 noon

Present:

David Cufley, President with 100 members and 8 visitors.

Minute Secretary: Angela Bevan

David Cufley, Chair of the Meeting, welcomed members.

1. Notice Convening the Meeting

Read by Vera Bailey the Secretary of the Society

2. Apologies

Daphne Barham, Jeanette Carter, Carol Clayton, Stella East, Joan Field, Alan Griffiths, Maureen Griffiths, Gillian Heather, Debbie Hill, Shirley Kell, Rosemary Lathey, Adele Nevill, Guy Nevill, Denis Palmer, Raymond Peacock, Jean Radford, Cliff Scottow, Robert Shepherd, Sarah Shepherd, David Turner

3. Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Tony Lathey and seconded by Janet Rose. The minutes were unanimously agreed.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 2014 AGM

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2014 (attached to these minutes)

Pat Gooding the treasurer explained that last year the society was in profit. This was needed to compensate for the decrease in the membership by 102 members.

Expenses have increased included the cost of hiring the halls.

Jean Stirk asked if many people had taken up the option of paying online. Pat Gooding replied that there had been an increase in standing orders and gift aid.

No members were paying online. This subject will be included in the June and December journals. Pat Gooding emphasised that name and membership number must be included when setting up a standing order.

Bob Woodward asked where the Find My Past payments were on the accounts. Pat Gooding replied that they had been included in miscellaneous and were the bulk of that figure. Lynne Marsh asked if last year's figures could be included alongside this year's figures in the report.

It was explained that these were abbreviated accounts. They were included in the full accounts copies of which were offered to any interested members. Pauline Heathcote the journal editor pointed out that the figures were included in the journal.

Acceptance of the Accounts

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

6. Report of the Society Committee for 2014 (circulated with the March 2015 journal)

There were no questions from members regarding the report.

The President updated the meeting on the following –

6.1 Sevenoaks Meeting

The Sevenoaks Branch members helped to support the Avenues Group's 'Touching the Past' project for people with learning disabilities. The project's concluding event on the 16 April 2015 had Nick Barrett the President of Federation Family History Society as keynote speaker. The Avenues Group presented awards to Sevenoaks Library, Martin Chittell the project leader and NWKFS's Sevenoaks Branch chair Barbara Attwaters for their work on the project. Barbara Attwaters thanked Karina Jackson, David Turner and Lorraine King for their contribution to the project and said the plaque will be displayed at the Society library.

6.2 Data Protection Act

A sub-committee has been set up to look into the Data Protection Act and how it affects the Society's publications and the closure period.

Acceptance of the Committee's report was proposed by Jean Stirk and seconded by Trevor Allan. The report was unanimously accepted.

7. Josephine Birchenough Memorial Awards

David Cufley the President explained that this had been judged on the three criteria agreed last year -

7.1 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 to the Presidents Panel by completing the application form for them to be considered.

7.2 Articles in the Society Journal being judged in the same way as the previous year's six criteria. All submitted articles for publication in the Journal will be considered and no application is necessary.

7.3 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.

There were no applications for category 1 and no nominations for category 3 award in 2014.

Four articles were short-listed for the category 2 award, they were: -

Charles Newman Kidd, Kidd's Steam Brewery and Miskin's Brewery by **Colin A Willeard**, page 280 of Volume 13, number 7; the story of the KIDD family and Charles Newman Kidd's business and contribution to the Dartford community.

Life and Death in the Army 1915-1917 by **Margaret Furlonger**, page 288 of Volume 13, number 7; the story of William James EARWAKER who joined the Hertfordshire Regiment.

Theophile Voisin – A very gentle man by **Colin Watkins**, page 333 of Volume 13, number 8; the story of a French conscript who survived the war and the effects it had on him.

Great Grandfather Austin and Five Surprises by **Michael Austin**, page 336 of Volume 13, number 8; the story of the research into the AUSTIN or should it be ALSTON family and the five surprises and coincidences discovered during that research.

It was decided to award all four members equal first prize of £30 each.

Margaret Furlonger was presented with her award. The other members will be notified of their award by post.

David Cufley appealed to members to apply for project funding and to nominate members who significantly support the society.

8. **Honorary Members**

There were no honorary members selected this year.

The issue of honorary awards had been discussed and would be looked into further. At the taskholders' meeting on 25 July, they will be asked for their opinions. If there are any changes proposed, they will need to come to the AGM to amend the constitution.

9. **President and Vice Presidents**

The committee proposed David Cufley standing as President for another four-year period, which he had accepted saying he was honoured to be asked.

The vice presidents continue in their roles, as they were not up for renewal this year.

10. **Election of Chair**

Walter Eves had given notice to the committee in 2014 that he would be stepping down in 2016. He wished to make them aware that this would be his last year.

Walter Eves was elected as Chair for another year. This was agreed with a majority vote with one member voting against his election.

11. **Election of Vice Chair**

There were no nominations for the Vice Chair. David Cufley asked for nominations from the floor but none were forthcoming. Trevor Allan asked if the constitution required that there had to be a vice chair. David Cufley responded that they did not have to have a vice chair, but in practice it helped the trustees to share their work.

Walter Eves explained that a trustee can stand that had not been formally nominated prior to the meeting. Lynne Marsh asked if Mike Weeks would be

prepared to stand as vice chair. Mike Weeks explained that his main role was publicity but that he was prepared to be nominated as vice chair. Walter Eves explained that he could have both roles, vice chair and publicity. Mike Weeks was then proposed by Lynne Marsh and seconded by Tony Lathey. The floor unanimously elected Mike Weeks as the vice chair.

12. Election of Secretary

Vera Bailey has decided to step down as the secretary.

Jean Stirk asked what the job involved. Walter Eves explained it was a co-ordinating role that also organised the trustee's meetings and collating their paperwork. There needed to be a named contact person for the Society. Anyone interested in the position should contact Vera Bailey or Walter Eves.

13. Election of Treasurer

Pat Gooding was proposed by Maureen Griffiths and seconded by Alan Griffiths. She was elected unanimously.

14. Election of Other Committee Members

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

Janet Rose, as Librarian, proposed by Lorraine King, seconded by Cliff Scottow.

Barbara Phillips acting as Publications and Project Co-ordinator, proposed by Steven Archer seconded by Lorraine King.

Barbara Attwaters proposed by Lorraine King, seconded by David Turner.

Tony Codling proposed by Brian Kirk, seconded by Lorraine King.

Fran Rogers proposed by Joyce Hoad and seconded by Shirley Kell.

There were no nominations from the floor for the sixth committee member position.

The meeting elected the five committee members unanimously.

The Chair explained that there was a vacancy should anyone wish to stand as a trustee of the Society they should contact Walter Eves.

The Chair explained that the individual branches elected the three Branch Representatives and they would form, with the elected members, the Society Committee.

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.

Christina Barnett was confirmed as Membership Secretary.

15. Election of Independent Examiner

David Williams, proposed by Pat Gooding, seconded by Pauline Heathcote was appointed unanimously by the members as the Independent Examiner.

16. Any Other Business

16.1 Library

Sylvia Hammond said she was impressed with the wonderful resource of the society library and asked to move that there be a clause in the constitution to

ensure that if the library closed the collection will not be broken up and has a clear destination. Fran Rogers agreed that she was reluctant to think that it could be given away to another society, but asked where should it be put? Joyce Hoad commented that this would not work in principle, as no organisation will take the whole collection. Walter Eves agreed that it was an important collection. It would be difficult to give it away as members had put it together. The meeting agreed efforts should be made to preserve the collection and relocate if necessary. Pat Gooding the treasurer commented that the society had a reserve policy. Part of these funds included a contingency to ensure that it could be put into storage until new premises or someone can be found to house the collection. Walter Eves confirmed that contingency plans have been discussed.

Janet Rose, the librarian, said that they would look for new premises if the KCC library should close. She asked that members support the library, which was open every Wednesday 10am to 4pm. Trevor Allan who was a volunteer at the library was in favour of keeping the collection together. They would be evicted from the library if KCC did not want it to remain open. How it stayed together and the actions suggested should be decided by the committee and not be formalised in the constitution. The President said under the current constitution the trustees managed the society and if there was a dissolution of the society it sets out placing the assets with a similar charitable organisation. In regard the current KCC reorganisation of Archives and Libraries he said NWKFHS had sent its comments to KCC on their latest Archive trust consultation proposals and this situation needed to be monitored.

16.2 Taskholders meeting.

Joyce Hoad asked about the taskholders' meeting, which Walter Eves confirmed would be on 25th July 2015. He said all taskholders will be invited to attend and it will be held at Dartford. Details will be in the June journal.

Tony Lathey gave a vote of thanks to the committee and its officers. Trevor Allan seconded this.

There being no further business, David Cufley closed the meeting by thanking the members for their attendance and the Society Committee and all the taskholders for their hard work over the past 12 months. He congratulated the new committee on their election and wished them all the very best for the coming twelve months.

Meeting closed at 13.10pm.