



North West Kent Family History Society

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

Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting
Held at Farringtons School, Perry Street, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6LR

Saturday 14 April 2018 at 12 noon

Present:

David Cufley, President and 106 members and 7 visitors.

Minutes Secretary: Stella Eames

David Cufley, Chair of the Meeting, welcomed members.

1. Notice Convening the Meeting

Read by Stella Eames, Minutes Secretary

2. Apologies

Gloria Davies, Eileen Evans, Eileen Eves, Walter Eves, Brian Kirk, Adele Nevill, Guy Nevill, Jean Radford, Audrey Rainer, Malcolm Rainer, Susan Pittman, Janet Rose, Carolyn Thomas, Roger Thomas, Janet Thorne, David Turner, Angela Verralls, Mike Weeks, Bernadette Wilkins.

David Cufley had received a card from Susan Pittman, one of the Society's VPs, which he read out: *"I apologise that family commitments have meant that I am unable to attend NWKFHS AGM. I send sincere congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the Society. It has been an inspiration & source of friendship over the years – long may it continue. Well done to all concerned over the years to make NWKFHS such a success. Susan."*

3. Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting (copies available on the website and distributed on arrival to all AGM attendees)

David Cufley asked for a show of hands to accept the minutes, which were approved unanimously. All in favour, none against, no abstentions.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 2017 AGM

David Cufley asked if any members anyone wished to raise any matters from the previous minutes. None did.

5. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017

A copy of the accounts were available to the meeting. Pat Gooding, treasurer, said she was pleased that in 2017 there had been a surplus of income over expenditure. The donations given by members attending workshops, and the gift aid tax refund on these, had been a big contribution for which she thanked Victor Nutt, workshop organiser.

David Cufley asked if any member had any queries.

Pam Goddard asked why the Society had so much money in the bank. Pat Gooding responded that there is a Charity Commission requirement to hold reserves and also we must have reserves for unusual expenses eg if we were to lose the use of the library and had to find other accommodation to house our books and documents.

Christine Hills asked what is included in miscellaneous income. Pat Gooding responded that it is income on which gift aid is not recoverable eg sales of books and calendars.

Acceptance of the Accounts

David Cufley asked the members for a show of hands to accept the accounts, which were approved unanimously. All in favour, none against, no abstentions.

6. Report of the Committee for 2017 (additionally reports from committee members are on the website)

Tony Codling, the Chairman, presented the report.

Tony spoke about the achievements of the Society in 2017 and thanked everyone whose volunteer work had made the Society such a success.

There were no questions from members regarding the report.

Jean Stirk proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Margaret Furlong, all in favour, none against, no abstentions.

7. Josephine Birchenough Memorial Awards

The President's Panel considers the applications. The panel comprises the President, the Vice Presidents, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The awards criteria are for three categories of award: -

Category 1: Projects

The panel received no applications in 2017 for this category.

Category 2: Journal Articles

The President's panel judged all published Articles in the Society Journal in 2017. All published articles in the Journal are considered; it is not necessary to apply. (Articles by Society Trustees, members of the President's Panel and non NWKFHS members are not considered).

Category 3: To recognise or support significant work that contributes to the Society and its objects.

Any two members, a proposer and seconder, can submit recommendations to the Trustees or the President's Panel. The President's Panel will judge the recommendations.

No recommendations were received in 2017.

This year the panel considered an interesting selection of articles in the **category 2 award**.

There were 33 articles in total in 2017, but only 11 were eligible for consideration because articles by Society Trustees, members of the President's Panel and non NWKFHS members are not considered. The judging criteria is:

- 1 An interesting read.
- 2 Method: how research was approached and the steps taken to discover the information.
- 3 Sources: exact references and where the sources are located.
- 4 Demonstrate how the information is confirmed.
- 5 Problems: how they are overcome and commenting on pitfalls found.
- 6 Draw simple family tree(s) by hand or with computer programs to illustrate the family.

It was finally decided to make five awards and one commendation.

The commendation is for Tony Lathey's short article 'Conservation work at St Mary's Church in 2016' which tells of repairs to the spire of this grade II* church in St Mary Cray, Orpington (Vol 14, No 6 p47).

There are three equal third place awards this year, which go to the following authors:

Helen Butler for her article 'Three Ventriloquists in the family' that tells the story of three BUTLER sisters who all became ventriloquists under different stage names Mabel SINCLAIR, Hetty HOLLAND and Nancy LEE (Vol 14 No 5 p 200).

Janet Iles for her article 'Thomas Davies (1819-1881), Transported to Australia' the story of someone caught up in the criminal justice system of 19th century and was transported to Australia where he built a new life (Vol No 8 p322).

Colin Watkins for his article 'England's White Crow, Gladys Osbourne Leonard 1882-1968' who, according to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was the greatest trance medium with whom he was acquainted (Vol 14 No. 6 p241).

The panel has awarded £20 to each of these three authors.

The first place awards this year go to two articles:

Robin Oakley for his article 'Oldhouse Farm, Hildenborough, The story of a Tudor Farmhouse and its Farming Families', which tells of his parents' home, a grade II listed house (Vol 14 No. 7 p279).

David Turner for his article 'In the Line of Duty, Lewis Padgham 1897-1916', which tells of a soldier commemorated on the Bromley war memorial in Martin's Hill, Church Road. (Vol15 No. 5 p186). The Panel agreed to award Robin Oakley and David Turner £45 each for their articles.

The President's Panel would like to thank the authors of the articles published in 2017. We appreciate the effort they put into sharing their family history research with our members. The change in the articles we saw this year has resulted from the new writing groups held at the Society's Library. We look forward to seeing the results of these self-help sessions in articles submitted to our Journal. To the award winners we send our congratulations on their work, which we are sure Josephine Birchenough would have echoed.

Certificates of Thanks

These were to be presented to: Brian and May Waymont who have worked on indexing projects for over 25 years. As they were not in attendance the President will present them at the next Dartford Branch meeting.

8. Honorary Members

There were no new honorary members selected this year. There are currently 12.

9. President and Vice Presidents

The President and Vice Presidents are appointed by the trustees for four years and are all still current. VP Ron Anthony died earlier this year and the Chair will consider a replacement.

10. Election of Chair

Tony Codling was proposed by Mike Weeks and seconded by Pauline Heathcote. He was unanimously elected. None against, no abstentions.

11. Election of Vice Chair

Mike Weeks was proposed by Brian Kirk and seconded by Lorraine King. He was unanimously elected. None against, no abstentions. Mike Weeks was also willing to take on the duties for Publicity.

12. Election of Secretary

This position is still vacant and no nominations had been received. David Cufley appealed for nominations from the floor but no-one responded.

13. Election of Treasurer

Pat Gooding was proposed by Bridget West and seconded by Ian West. She was elected unanimously. None against, no abstentions.

14. Election of Other Committee Members

Janet Rose, Librarian proposed by Bridget West, seconded by Barbara Heffer.
Barbara Phillips, Publications and Projects proposed by Lorraine King seconded by Peter Searle
Barbara Attwaters proposed by Christine Hills seconded by Cliff Scottow.
Fran Rogers proposed by Shirley Kell and seconded by Brian Kirk.
Victor Nutt proposed by Isabel Leslie seconded by Hilary Waters

The meeting elected the committee members unanimously. All in favour, none against. No abstentions.

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.

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

Terry King offered himself again as independent examiner and was proposed by Pauline Heathcote and seconded by Barbara Phillips.

The members unanimously elected Terry King as the Independent Examiner. None against, no abstentions.

16. Any Other Business

David Cufley spoke about the 40 years the Society has been operating and wondered if our founder members, 40 years ago, would have realised how their hobby would develop. He mentioned the difference in responsibilities then and now – with the advent of health and safety, copyright, data protection legislation, gift aid and insurance. The first Journal was produced on a Gestetner machine, now on a computer. Under the editorship of Jean Stirk and Mari Alderman the Journal won awards for best Journal. In 2006 our website under Webmaster Steve Archer won an FFHS award for best website. In 2018 it has developed into a new website with a Members Only Area and an e-shop.

In 1981 we became a registered charity and must therefore also comply with the Charity Commissioner's regulations.

We need to appreciate the leadership provided by our Chairman Tony Codling and all the work our Trustees do to organise and manage the Society.

David proposed a vote of thanks to them and their predecessors, and for the work of the branch committees and all the taskholders.

Victor Nutt seconded the vote of thanks and also thanked the top table and Barbara Attwaters for an excellent day. All in favour.

Barbara Attwaters publicly thanked David Turner for the beautiful new pull-up screens, being used today for the first time, and will be used to enhance our information table at future events.

David Cufley said that the new Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) apply from 25 May, but the Information Commissioners Office has said that is not a deadline for Consent Forms. However it is vital that members complete the forms appropriately so we can continue to send them communications, otherwise a date will come when we cannot. Tony Codling mentioned that they are checking the constitution at present. David Cufley explained that the grades of memberships may need to be reviewed for Libraries as 'Associates' and if any changes are needed they will be proposed at the next AGM in 2019.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1.10pm.