

SUSSEX FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Registered Charity No.273726

Synopsis of Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting

Held on 13 April 2019 at Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, subject to approval at the 2020 AGM

Present at the AGM were Lord Teviot (President), Mr Mick Henry (Chairman), Mr Terry Mitchell (Treasurer) and 65 members.

Lord Teviot welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Terry Lawson and Shirley Sanderson

Acknowledgement of Representatives of Subscribing Societies

There were no Subscribing Societies present.

Minutes of the 45th AGM

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes were a true record of the 45th AGM.

Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matter arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Report on the activities of the past year

The Chairman's report on the activities of the past year was as follows:

It had been a very interesting year. We had a good conference last year, and have almost completed the Chichester Cathedral project. We had Dr Geoffrey Mead, Sharon Hintze and Chris Horlock at last year's conference. We have tracked down some work we did many years ago from the Evening Argus (it is being checked by Judy) indexing the family notices from 1900 to 1950. Compiled by Marion Devoy, Maxine Miller and Jeanne Potter. This resource is now available at the Keep.

We had a second Open Day at the Library which was very successful, commemorating the Armistice and celebrating extraordinary women. The Keep also offered behind the scenes tours and displays of original archive material.

Our Events Team attended meetings all over the country supporting and flying the flag of the Sussex Family History Group. Mick particularly thanked Roy Winchester for his work in publicity and production. Our Facebook page has now got 1500 members and the Admin Team do control things very well.

Last year, Mick had finally got around to visiting all of the Meeting Centres.

What has not gone well was the new website. We had a traumatic time with one company in Burgess Hill, and this is reflected in the accounts. It meant that instead of creating and establishing the new website, we did not do anything. Dave Wicks reported that at the last Federation of Family History Societies, that they not only

had a new name but also a new website. And we are now hoping that the people who produced their new website might do the same for us. They are already experienced in the Family History field, and we are hoping to make progress this year.

The Chairman's report was approved.

Treasurer's Report and to approve the Accounts

- The Group made a surplus of just over £4,000 last year and now had a considerable sum of money in our accounts. Terry is currently looking to move the funds to give us a better return than we are receiving at present.
- Gift Aid is well down on last year, mainly due to previously being able to reclaim the previous four years' tax.
- In a few years' time, we will be renewing our lease on our room at the Keep, and we have to keep sufficient money in reserve for that.
- We currently have about 620 members who pay by direct debit, and Terry hoped to encourage more members to pay this way.
- Terry thanked Kreston Reeves, our independent examiners, for their efficient attention given to our accounts.
- A member queried that we had deregistered for VAT, and when. We had deregistered on the advice of our independent examiners.
- Another member queried the estimated cost of the new lease, and what would be done with the rest of the money for the benefit of the members. At the moment we are considering bursaries and as we are only halfway through the current Lease, we are not yet negotiating the next Lease.

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts were approved.

Election of the Officers and members of the Executive Committee

The following members had been nominated:

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Michael Henry	Terry Lawson	Stephen Selby
Treasurer	Terence Mitchell	Michael Henry	Stephen Selby
Secretary	Jean Spilsted	Michael Henry	Judy Excell
Committee Members	David Wicks	Brian Eaton	Michael Henry
	Judy Excell	John Wickens	Valerie Boddy
	Brian Eaton	Terry Lawson	Michael Henry
	Allison Caffyn	Michael Henry	Stephen Selby
	Vee Willis	Wendy Hobden	Penelope Goulding

The Officers and Committee Members were elected en bloc.

Nomination and confirmation of the appointment of the Independent Examiners of the Accounts

It was agreed that Kreston Reeves be appointed as our Independent Examiners.

To approve the annual subscription for the following year

The Executive had decided not to increase the subscriptions for the coming year, and this was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take decisions on any submitted motions

None.

Any Other Business

A member referred to the bursaries mentioned earlier and how we were spending the money. It had been discussed spending some of the money on paying students to transcribe older documents, such as manorial records, but this was still at an early stage. We also spent some of the money on four new computers and upgrading others. We also gave a donation to West Sussex Record Office, had helped with publishing the book on the Wealden Iron Industry (£3000) and had spent a considerable amount on the new website.

Another member asked about encouraging younger members to join, and it was suggested that DNA would be one way of getting younger people interested, but this would be discussed.

Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

Saturday 18th April 2020 at Clair Hall.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.