

HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting

11.30 am, Saturday 17 June 2023, Millennium Memorial Hall, Littleton, Winchester

Present: Dr Nick Barratt (President)
Members of the Executive Committee and Development Forum
Members of the Society

1 Welcome by Tony Sinclair - Interim Chairman, Hampshire Genealogical Society (HGS)

The Interim Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He referred to the fact that there had been some concern within the Society when the previous Chairman, Paul Pinhorne, had had to stand down at short notice due to health issues, but was delighted to welcome Paul to the AGM.

Tony then handed over to Dr Nick Barratt, the Society's President, to conduct the first part of the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Judith Hoskins, Jane Hurst, David Lindsell, Heather Merriman, Stephen Pomeroy, Jenny Scott, Pat Staniforth, Beryl Whale and Rod Whale.

3 Minutes of 2022 AGM (18 June 2022)

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Proposer:	Gwen Newland	In favour:	72
Seconder:	Edward Toomer	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	3

The President formally signed to approve the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Chairman's Annual Report

The full report had been posted on the HGS website along with the other AGM papers, but Tony Sinclair gave a summary.

He reported that the Society was very sorry to lose Paul Pinhorne as the HGS Chair in April. Paul had been an HGS member since 1987 and had, during that time, held several roles in the Society including being Ringwood Group Leader for 15 years. He was a member of the Executive Committee for over 19 years, several as Vice-Chairman. Soon after becoming Chairman in June 2018, and during the Covid pandemic, he led the relocation of HGS from its Cosham office to its new home within Hampshire Record

Office (HRO). During the last year Paul had overseen the consolidation of the Society's very successful working partnership with HRO, and the contract had recently been renewed for a further year. The Society continued to hold regular Partnership Meetings with the heads of HRO, Jane and Paula, and there was a mutual feeling that the organisations worked well together.

During the past year, HGS had continued to receive a steady flow of visitors to the Help Desk in the HRO search room. Research enquiries through the website from people unable to visit in person continued to increase, and these came not only from the UK, but from Europe, Australia and America. Orders for CDs, Village Booklets and other books also increased. The number of volunteer members had increased and they had been working on various projects both in the office and remotely. Significant progress had been made digitising the Society's collection of records of Britons Dying Overseas (BDO) - around 90,000 entries. Under the direction of the Project Co-ordinator, John Bowman, around 50% had been completed, and some of these were already on the HGS website. The aim was to have this project completed by 2024. It could be sooner if more transcribers could be recruited.

After some years without a dedicated Publicity Officer, the Society had been able to engage Sue Stannard in the role. She had begun work in local libraries and in those in Fareham, Lockswold, Stubbington and Gosport, HGS volunteers were regularly helping people with their queries.

A successful display was created in the foyer of HRO, put together by Tony Sinclair, Jane Painter, Phil Brown and Sue Stannard, which ran from early January to late February. This professionally prepared display was very well received in the Record Office by staff and visitors alike. Part of this was on display in the foyer at Littleton Memorial Hall for the conference day.

For various genuine reasons, the Society had lost several Principal Officers over the year. Paul Pinhorne and Gwen Newland had already stood down as Chair and Secretary respectively, and Vice-Chairman, Chris Pavey, was also to stand down at the AGM. At the next AGM, the Treasurer and Membership Secretary would be standing down. For HGS to continue to be as successful as it was, it must engage continuously in succession planning to replace them. As a charity, the Society could not legally operate without its Principal Officers. There was therefore an urgent and constant need for volunteers working in various roles, including Principal Officers, Trustees, Help Desk volunteers and others working behind the scenes in research, transcription and office administration. Some of these roles could be carried out remotely, wholly or in part. Tony referred to the fact that our new King, Charles III, had introduced a new initiative called 'The Big Help Out', encouraging volunteers to come forward. Along with other family history societies nationally, HGS had signed up to this initiative. Tony asked those present to give some serious thought as to what help they could give, in any capacity, for as much or as little time as they could spare.

The next year would see the Society's 50th Anniversary and among the celebrations to mark this milestone, plans were being made to hold a two-day special event in late June or early July 2024. This might include a Gala Dinner, and exhibitors and renowned speakers would be invited to make this Conference and AGM a noteworthy occasion. It had been hoped to hold the event in June 2024 but it had proved impossible to find a suitable venue that month. It would therefore take place in early July. However, under the terms of the Society's Constitution, the AGM had to take place within six months of

the end of the Society's financial year (31 December) and therefore a separate AGM would take place, via Zoom, in June 2024.

6 Treasurer's Annual Report and Accounts

The Treasurer had produced her report which had been included with the AGM papers on the website.

In common with many societies, income had fallen over recent years. However, there had been a sizeable decrease in property costs since the move to HRO. In addition, the Society had been fortunate to receive a substantial legacy under the will of a deceased member, and this had been included in the 2022 accounts. It was hoped to do something tangible with this legacy and this will be considered in due course. The accounts were showing a surplus because of this.

There being no questions on the accounts, it was proposed that they be accepted.

Proposer:	Carol Leonard	In favour:	75
Seconder:	Nick MacDonald	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

7 Appointment of Auditors

It was proposed to reappoint Morris Crocker, Chartered Accountants, as the Society's auditors.

Proposer:	Edward Toomer	In favour:	75
Seconder:	Judy Kimber	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

8 Appointment of Charity Trustees

Details of those standing for election or re-election to the Executive Committee had been made available to the membership via the website. Tony temporarily handed over the chairing of the meeting to Nick. It was noted that Trustees were the lifeblood of the Society - they offered a time commitment but had the benefit of seeing the Society thrive, and members owed them a debt of gratitude.

Appointment of Chairman - Tony Sinclair

Proposer:	Chris Pavey	In favour:	75
Seconder:	Phil Brown	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

Tony was duly elected and resumed the chair. He thanked members for electing him, and Paul Pinhorne, Gwen Newland and Chris Pavey for their experience and expertise afforded to him so far.

Appointment of Vice-Chair - Kay Lovell

Proposer:	Tony Sinclair
Seconder:	Jill Lee

Appointment of Secretary - Jane Painter

Proposer: Dennis Bill
Seconder: Ann-Marie Shearer

Re-Appointment of Treasurer - Ann-Marie Shearer

All three were appointed with immediate effect:

In favour: 76
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

Re-appointment of Trustees

The following were all willing to continue and were elected en-bloc:

John Bowman
Margaret Bowman
Phil Brown
Fiona Ranger
Keith Turner
Angela Winteridge

Proposer: Richard Backhouse In favour: 76
Seconder: Katie Arnett Against: 0
 Abstentions: 0

New Trustee - Sue Stannard

Proposer: Jim Malpuss In favour: 75
Seconder: Brian Prowting Against: 0
 Abstentions: 1

New Trustee - Terry Gilmour

Proposer: Rod Whale In favour: 76
Seconder: Margaret Bowman Against: 0
 Abstentions: 0

It was noted that Terry is a long-standing member of HGS with membership number 70!

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10 Date of 2024 Annual General Meeting

As mentioned under the Chairman's report, the next AGM would be in June 2024, exact date to be confirmed, and would be via Zoom. It was announced that the two-day 50th Anniversary Conference would take place on 6/7 July, at Victoria Halls, Hartley Wintney.

11 Special Presentations

The Society felt that the departure from office of the previous Chairman, Secretary and Vice-Chairman could not go unmarked and Tony made presentations as follows:

Paul & Eileen Pinhorne: Paul became a member in 1987, was Ringwood Group Organiser for many years and Chairman from June 2018, during which time, as mentioned earlier, he oversaw the move to HRO and was instrumental in setting up the good working relationships within HRO. He had frequently done over and above what might normally be expected of the Chairman. The help and support of Paul's wife Eileen was also acknowledged, and they were presented with a set of cut glasses, flowers and a voucher for a champagne afternoon tea for two at The Ivy. Paul thanked the Committee and members and reinforced the need for additional volunteers to avoid 'burnout'.

Gwen & John Newland: Gwen was also Secretary of the RAF Association as her husband John was previously in the RAF. She joined the Society in 2010 and became Membership Secretary in 2013, then Secretary, and led the sub-committee on the new website and its subsequent revamp. She was also a member of the Media Group. Thanks were also given to John for his help and support at events. They were presented with a crystal vase, flowers and a voucher for a champagne afternoon tea for two at The Ivy. Gwen had gone above and beyond the role of Secretary, and her expertise and experience would be missed.

Chris & Geoff Pavey: Chris was formerly a civil servant with the Department of Work & Pensions, and professional genealogist for Debretts. She joined HGS in 2007 and successfully ran the bookstall from 2008-2016. She had been Research Manager as well as Vice-Chairman and this had grown into Sales Manager, Office Manager and member of the Media and Liaison Committees. This proved very stressful and too much for one person, and the Society would have better succession planning to avoid this level of burden in the future. Geoff was also thanked for his contribution, both on the bookstall and acting as photographer for the conference day and other events. Both would be sorely missed and were presented with two large plants for their garden, flowers and a voucher for a champagne afternoon tea for two at The Ivy. Chris thanked everyone and said that she was looking forward to being a 'dogsbody' for the Society, with no responsibility!

The AGM was officially closed.