

# **SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Held on Monday, 16 March 2020 at the Baptist Church, Napier Street, Sheffield*

## **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Anne Giller (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Julie and Dennis Jephson, Tony Beardshaw and Angela Treweek.

## **2. Approval of Minutes of the AGM 2019**

These were printed and circulated in the Summer 2019 Journal. They were taken as read and accepted by those present as a correct record. Adoption proposed by Judith Pitchforth and seconded by Jayne Newton.

## **3. Chair's report (Anne Giller)**

We are very pleased to report that we have had a response to our request for a volunteer webmaster from member Mark Gilby who lives in London. He is ably qualified to take on the role and it had been hoped to progress matters by meeting him earlier today together with Tony Beardshaw and OhSo Creative our web-builders. Unfortunately this meeting had to be cancelled because Mike was taken ill, but it is hoped that we will be able to rearrange shortly. We are hopeful that Mike will be able to take on this role as we are very aware that we need to improve our online and social media presence, which is an important way forward for family history societies. Notwithstanding the lack of a webmaster we were able to make some developments to the website during 2019. We now have a searchable database of members' surname interests which has already helped some people to discover a mutual interest. We have also uploaded about three quarters of the library catalogue into a searchable database so that members are able to see what the library holds and we hope to complete this shortly. Work has continued on the David Hey Memorial Project, our joint venture with Sheffield Archives to digitise and make freely available online a selection of important maps and plans from the Arundel and Fairbanks collections. To date 3,006 items have been scanned, 246 of which are already catalogued and uploaded to Picture Sheffield. Larger items are scanned at the British Library in Boston and there are currently a number of items with them. We have earmarked a sum of £10,000 in our reserves to sponsor this project. Unfortunately as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic we have taken a decision to postpone our Sheffield Family History Fair due to take place at the beginning of May. We have also decided to cancel the Society meetings in April, May and June. We will review the situation after this and make further decisions as necessary. Information will be published on the website and circulated to members on the email circulation list. Finally thanks are extended to the

committee members and to the non-member volunteers who help to set up at meetings, distribute refreshments, etc. Especial thanks to the volunteer transcribers who continue their work year on year under the supervision of our Projects' Co-ordinator Pat Swindin. Pat is exceptionally diligent and works hard to check all work to avoid mistranscriptions. The latest dataset to be completed is the baptism registers of the Church of England church of St Matthias which used to stand in Summerfield Street. As well as making records available to a wider audience, the sale of transcriptions contributes to the Society's annual income. This has been a difficult year for some committee members who have had to contend with serious health problems of their own or in their family. In the autumn Tony Beardshaw decided to step away from active involvement with the committee because of family and work pressures. He has continued his involvement in the fair planning group for which we are very grateful. Our secretary resigned at short notice in September because of family commitments and we thank Carole Eales who took on the majority of the duties in addition to her role as Membership Secretary. We intend to combine these two functions going forward. Finally we would like to thank member Judith Pitchforth for undertaking the role of scrutineer of our annual accounts.

#### **4. Secretary's report (Carole Eales)**

Carole gave a brief review of the communications received from members and non-members of the Society, during the past year, in her roles as both Secretary and Membership Secretary. She has now posted information about the Society and its activities on the Sheffield Directory webpage and keeping this updated. Joanne Harper is dealing with Facebook. Feedback on reviews of Speaker meetings published in *The Flowing Stream* suggests that these are well received by members unable to attend meetings. Members' Interests are now being passed (with permission) to the Family History Federation's Data Manager, and uploaded to the centralised Members' Surname Interests page on the FHF website. It is hoped that in future our webmaster will be able to facilitate the development of a Members Only section on our website. Membership subscriptions are a major source of annual income and at present we have 432 paid up members broken down as follows: Life (3), Individual (377), Family (36) and Overseas (16). This is a decrease on earlier years but reflects the trend among family history societies as a whole. We have been intending to participate in the Kelham Island Museum Name on a Knife Blade event but now anticipate that this is likely to be cancelled.

#### **5. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts 2019 (Bob Adams)**

Bob circulated a statement of the accounts prepared for 2019. These accounts are the first to be produced under the provisions of our new constitution which requires that they are independently scrutinised rather than prepared by an accountant. We are grateful to our member Judith Pitchforth for agreeing to act

as scrutineer this year. Costs for the David Hey Memorial Project are stated separately from the income and expenditure on our ordinary activities. Setting aside the expenditure on the Project the accounts show a surplus of £708 from our ordinary activities. This is less than in 2018, but that figure was boosted by profits from the successful 2018 biennial fair. Income in 2019 from sales and subscriptions was broadly the same as in 2018. Non-fair expenditure was a little higher. As our activities are subject to great uncertainty at the moment it is difficult to predict how this current year will unfold. The accounts as circulated and approved by the Independent Scrutineer (Judith Pitchforth) were adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Bob Adams and seconded by Jayne Newton.

## **6. Editors' report**

This item was not taken as neither editor was present and no report had been submitted.

## **7. Annual Elections**

In the absence of any other nominations before or at the meeting the following members were elected unopposed. Members were reminded that the Committee has the power to co-opt new members during the year and should anyone feel moved to offer their services they will be welcomed.

### **Officers**

- Chair – Anne Giller. Proposed by Carole Eales and seconded by Bob Adams
- Secretary – Carole Eales. Proposed by Pat Unsworth and seconded by David Hollingworth
- Treasurer – Bob Adams. Proposed by Jayne Newton and seconded by Pam Marsh
- Editors – Angela Treweek and Pat Oldham. Proposed by Anne Giller and seconded by Judith Pitchforth.

### **Committee members**

The current Committee all stood for re-election: Tony Beardshaw, Sue Graves, Joanne Harper, David Hollingworth, Jacquie Stubbs and Pat Swindin. Proposed by Pat Hollingworth and seconded by Judith Pitchforth.

There was no other business and the Chair closed the meeting.

### **Presentation of Denise Marsden Prize**

This was presented by Sue Hammond who announced that the 2019 winner is Tricia Kelly for her article *The Mystery of Mrs Fox*, which was published in the Summer 2019 Flowing Stream (Vol. 40, No. 2).