

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE RENFREWSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Held on THURSDAY 16th May 2019
at University of the West of Scotland, Paisley

Present (of the existing Committee):

John Allen, May Allen, Peter Hutchison, John McGregor, Marjory McGregor, Dr Iain McLellan, Chris McMenemy, Barbara Morrison, and David Rowand

Apologies:

David Robb, Angela Ronald

Minutes:

David Rowand announced that the minutes for the AGM of 2018 and those of the past year's committee meetings had been tabled for scrutiny.

The 2018AGM minutes were proposed by Marjory McGregor and seconded by Peter Hutchison.

Matters Arising:

None

Reports:

John Allen gave the **Chair's Report:**

(Text provided after end of minutes).

Acceptance of the Chair's Report was proposed by Peter Hutchison.
and seconded by Dr Iain McLellan.

John McGregor's gave the **Secretary's Report:**

(Text provided after end of minutes).

Acceptance of the Secretary's Report was proposed by May Allen and seconded by Chris McMenemy.

May Allen gave the **Treasurer's Report:**

The surplus for the year is similar to last year, £378 compared £404 last year.
Both Income and Expenditure are down by nearly the same amount, £600.

Income

Subscriptions are down substantially and income from publications is lower.
Find My Past income is down slightly.

Expenditure

Meeting costs are lower as we were very lucky to have free Lets for this year from UWS. This will not be the case next year! We will be paying about £42 a meeting for the use of L208. Renfrewshire council charged us £15 for our monthly Meeting.
Arrangements for committee meetings yet to be decided on.

General Printing, Stationery, Postage and Telephone costs are down, but this depends very much on the current work in progress. Journals, printing and postage are up mainly due to increased postal charges.

Insurance is down. Our broker managed to get a lower quote for us with another company. I think we can be certain that the premium will be increased this year.

Internet and web services are down but will increase next year. (Have 2 year subscription cycle for some products.) We paid for cloud storage last year - £82

(Audited accounts at end of minutes. The second page relates to a second account, that we hold against a crisis. It was opened years ago when we hosted a SAFHS Conference. No interest is earned on a business account.)

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by John McGregor and seconded by Chris McMenemy.

Appointment of Auditor – Kenneth Thompson to whom we extend our repeated thanks.

Election:

The meeting proceeded to elect the Office Bearers and Committee
No others were nominated for any of the posts.:

John Allen was re-elected as Chairperson.

Proposed by Peter Hutchison, seconded by Dr Iain McLellan.

David Rowand was re-elected as Vice Chairman

Proposed by John McGregor, seconded by John Allen.

John McGregor was re-elected as Secretary

Proposed by David Rowand, seconded by Peter Hutchison.

May Allen was re-elected as Treasurer

Proposed by Barbara Morrison, seconded by Marjory McGregor.

The appointment of a non-committee member as auditor – Kenneth Thompson - was proposed in his absence

Proposed by David Rowand, seconded by Barbara Morrison

The committee was re-elected en bloc:

Peter Hutchison; Marjory McGregor; Dr. Iain McLellan; Christopher McMenemy; Barbara Morrison; Gail Nicol; David Robb and Angela Ronald.

Proposed by David Rowand and seconded by Sheila Galloway.

TO CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS:

The increased venue fees were discussed. Those quoted by both the UWS and District Council were about the same and, because we are a charity, less than others would be charged. The Tweedie Halls at Linwood will be explored as a possibility for 2020/21.

Chris McMenemy asked if the committee meeting and general meetings could be held on the same evening to defray costs. We would still have to pay for the time and would always be restricted by the looming general meeting. The committee will have to find an alternative meeting place.

The greatly increased cost of postage was also recognised, the expense of sending a journal being almost as much as having it printed..

The committee reluctantly suggested an increase in membership subscriptions to cover these costs.

The committee reviews these on an annual basis and has resisted increases, the last being in 2006.

The formal proposal, by Peter Hutchison and seconded by Maureen Walker, was carried unanimously, by a show of hands of those present, was for an increase of £2 on all UK subscriptions, coming into force in April 2020.

A.O.C.B.:

On seeing that we are receiving monies from Find My Past, Margaret Black asked about reduction of individual members' subscriptions to that company if the Society paid its own membership. John McGregor was able to explain that the Society's subscription would be £400 and would be advantageous if we had our own premises being used regularly by a number of members, but not in our circumstances. This was accepted.

The evening concluded with a talk on the Open University presented by Dr. Iain McLellan.

John Allen
Chairman

Barbara Morrison
17/05/2019

RFHS Chairman's Report, 2019 AGM

“Ladies and Gentlemen”

Once again it is the AGM. In Some ways last year's report could be repeated. I record how fortunate we have been to have had so many interesting and entertaining speakers at our meetings, and how your hard working committee and volunteers here have served the society by producing the magazine, answering queries, and the Abbey Group etc. etc.

I cannot overstate our dependence on the hard work by the dedicated few. But that would be too simple. This year we have had a change of venue for both our society and our committee meetings. We are no longer able to provide tea or coffee after the meetings. Not only did we no longer have the use of the accommodation at the museum but the first meeting of this session at the new venue, although successful, highlighted a potential problem for our older or less mobile members. The distance and location of suitable parking in inclement weather conditions was a matter of some concern.

We were very fortunate to be offered the accommodation at the University.

Our numbers at the meetings have held up but like many small Societies we struggle to maintain all the service to the Society, the magazine, projects, research and the Abbey Group.

During my first term as chairman and in early days of the society I was involved in the provision and hosting of the SAFHS annual conference called “Surfing the Past” It was very successful.

At this time May and I were also heavily involved in the establishment of the Abbey group which is providing a sterling service to members, visitors and also helps support the facilities that the Abbey provides.

I am pleased that the Abbey group have matured and developed and are held in high regard it by visitors who have received their help. Now the Abbey Group are coming up with more ideas and even putting forward ideas like video conferencing which would improve communication and help save money for lets.

In the early days of the Abbey Group we received great support from Matt McIntosh, who looked after the fabric of the Abbey and also two of our early members Robin and Cathy Craig who also served as membership Secretary in the early days.

I thank the Abbey Staff and volunteers for their continuing support.

I do not visit the Abbey as often as I should. This is because of May's and my earlier

vision and efforts and the development being different from my expectations. Also the realisation that like all parents one must step back and let the children develop. If it works, don't touch!

Joking apart, the help and assistance given to far-travelled visitors has been outstanding and I understand they are now having almost yearly visits from a fast developing fan club.

Or so I am led to believe.

Projects undertaken in the past have been published and along with our other publication sales help contribute to funds.

In order that we continue to provide the service the membership expect and have depended on – we need more help with projects etc. from members and volunteers.

We have to consider long term issues

As well, storage of our records, equipment, computer support, publications (including our magazine). Most of our membership stay outwith easy travelling distances from Renfrewshire). Next year we will have to consider putting up the membership fees which have remained the same for more than 10 years.

In two weeks' time we are celebrating our twentieth anniversary as a society.

(Twenty Two years if you take in the initial two year concept period until the first formal meeting on at Paisley Museum.)

Next year my term as Chair will be served and the society will continue to flourish.

In order for this to happen we need your support. We need more volunteers so if anyone is interested please let us know.

On Saturday 1st June starting at 2 o'clock our 20th anniversary celebrations will commence with a brief introduction followed by a presentation by David Roberts, the original Vice President and at that time I think he was the curator for local history at Paisley Museum. (Apologies if I have the title wrong.) David has continued to support us. Some of you will remember his recent lecture and photographs of a past era of the High Street, Paisley as well as some of his earlier contributions.

He will present "Renfrewshire Family History".

We will have a short mystery tour of Renfrewshire showing surprising views of past well known establishments, buildings, Monuments ect

This should take us to 3.30 at which time there will be a buffet members will be free to sample the wares, examine the displays, and mingle with people with similar interests.

We will have displays, pamphlets etc illustrating some of the events and projects that the society has been involved in; mention of our hosting and organising the SAFHS conference “ Surfing the Past “ valuable work on monumental inscriptions, site visits etc. to provide suitable recognition of the first twenty years.

Thank you

Secretary's Report, May 2019.

The general work of secretary has not changed over the years but this session 2018/19 has been an exception.

As you all know our regular meeting place since the Society's inception in 1999 was the Lecture Hall, Paisley Museum, which was closed in September 2018 for renovation and this work would last 4 years, minimum. A new venue had to be found. Our first meeting of the session was held at No.9 High Street, Paisley and was very successful. However, we were finally able to secure a meeting room at the University of West of Scotland, with advantageous terms to the Society. We appreciate the help given to the Society by the University.

The Society will continue to hold it's meetings in UWS, room L208, Elles Building, Paisley, for the forthcoming term ie:2019/2020; but the terms of let have altered. This means that accommodation with more favourable terms need to be sought for future years, always bearing in mind the needs of the membership who are able to attend. Thankfully we are secure for the next year.

The Society continues to be represented at various 'Family History Fairs' and is also represented at the SAFHS stand at the two craft shows at the S E C C, Glasgow in March and October each year.

Speakers at our meetings have been varied and the topics suited to the membership and those who attended have expressed their appreciation. You will of course realise that when you do this job for as many years as I have, it becomes progressively more difficult to source speakers on subjects of interest to family historians. Your help would be much appreciated. I'm sure our own members have family stories which would be of interest and helpful to others in their family quest. Suggestions please.

Many thanks must go to all who have assisted me and to the committee also in carrying out duties of Secretary. Thank you all.

John R. McGregor (Secretary).

Accounts at 2019

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Income and Expenditure Account year ended 31st March 2019

2018	Income	£	£
986	Subscriptions 2017/18	445.72	
1004	Subscriptions 2018/19 in Advance	925.54	1371.26
277	Publications Society	360.43	
73	Non Society	76.14	
			436.57
0	Research		-7.50
60	Donations		46.00
442	Find My Past		410.60
<u>2842</u>			<u>2256.93</u>
Expenditure			
232	Meeting Costs - Hall Rent and Speakers	165.00	
519	Printing, Stationery, Postage & Telephone	200.59	
703	Journals, Printing and Postage	744.26	
393	SAFHS - Subscription and Insurance	289.41	
0	Equipment	0.00	
30	Sundry Expenses	83.34	
12	General Expenses	24.87	
250	Abbey	250.00	
300	Internet & Web Services	121.57	
<u>2438</u>			<u>1879.04</u>
404	Surplus (Deficit) for Year		377.89
<u>2383</u>	Balance from earlier years		<u>2786.78</u>
2787	Balance at 31st march 2018		3164.67
	Represented by		
2787	Bank of Scotland	3164.67	
14			
<u>2801</u>			<u>3164.67</u>

Examined and found to be a true and fair view of the Society's transactions for the Year ended 31st March 2019

Scottish Charity No **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. M. Amin 2/5/19

Independent Examiner

James Thompson 30/4/19

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Income and Expenditure Account year ended 31st March 2019

<u>2018</u>	Income	£
		0.00
0	Bank Interest	0.00
<u>0</u>		<u>0.00</u>
	Expenditure	
	No Expenditure	0.00
<u>0</u>		<u>0.00</u>
0	Surplus for Year	0.00
1575	Balance from earlier years	1574.73
<u>1575</u>	Balance at 31st march 2019	<u>1574.73</u>

Examined and found to be a true and fair view of the Society's transactions for the Year ended
31st March 2019

Scottish Charity **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. M. Allen

2/5/19

Independent Examiner

James Thompson

30/4/19