

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE RENFREWSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Held on Thursday 3rd December 2020
Via computer link, Zoom

Present (of the existing Committee):

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

Apologies:

David Rowand.

Minutes:

John Allen announced that the minutes for the AGM of 2019 were available for inspection. The 2019 AGM minutes were proposed by Chris McMenemy and seconded by Iain McLellan

Matters Arising:

None

Reports:

John Allen gave the **Chair's Report:**
(Text provided after end of minutes).

John McGregor's gave the **Secretary's Report:**
(Text provided after end of minutes).

May Allen gave the **Treasurer's Report Year 2019/2020:**

Income

We had a small deficit in this financial year of £59.47 compared with a surplus last financial year of £378

Income from subscriptions was up by £167.00. This can vary and also can be dependent on when members renew their subscriptions.

Net income from Publications was down by £198.00 – sales were down slightly and publication expenditure was up mainly due to the purchase of toner for the laser printer.

Donations were up by a small amount £10.00

Income generated by RFH Society information on Find My Past was down by £109

Expenditure

Meeting costs were significantly greater. We had to pay the full cost of a room let at UWS for our monthly meetings. This amounted £252. Thankfully, we were able to have our committee meeting at BSSC for a total of £40 for the full year (a significant saving). Many thanks to them.

Printing, Stationery etc was down from last year while expenses incurred with the production and postage of our journals was up marginally (£22).

Our Insurance Premium was up too by £14.

Sundry and General expense were very similar.

Internet & Web services were down but will rise again this year as renewal Domain registration etc will be due.

(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.

David Rowand was re-elected as Vice Chairman

John McGregor was re-elected as Secretary

May Allen was re-elected as Treasurer

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

The committee was re-elected en bloc:

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

There are vacancies both on the committee and in posts which do not require committee attendance. There were no volunteers.

Due to the exceptional circumstances of being in a virtual environment, the meeting accepted the appointment of all the above persons to the proposed posts.

TO CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Any recommendations

John Allen - AS PART OF A HOLISTIC APPROACH, we are considering possible adoption of the electronic production of the magazine and the possible use of a newsletter as an alternative, as well as, or not at all. Does the membership want electronic copies of the magazine, paper copies or the option of using both? There is obvious potential savings here. The costs and practical application of virtual meetings is being considered along with costings. The membership will be consulted and kept informed as we progress.

The Constitution requires that our proposals for fees as described earlier should be ratified at the AGM, the accounts adopted by the AGM. Can I have proposers and seconders for these.

It would be a great relief to your Committee if more members could join and help ensure our transformation of procedures is successful and to the benefit to the membership.

From Barbara Morrison, Journal Editor.

The cost of postage was increased again in December 2020 and completion of a Customs Declaration Form is now required for every journal or CD which we post abroad. It is proposed that we send e-journals only in the future.

There is a small number of members who have not provided us with an email address. A Journal can be printed, in-house, and posted to them.

This will be trialled and reconsidered.

A.O.C.B.: None

The evening concluded with a talk on St Luke's Church, Paisley presented by Chris McMenemy.

John Allen
Chairman

Barbara Morrison
07/02/2021

RFHS CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS 2020

The last 12 months has certainly been different from usual. Rather than deliver a report of the past year I am going to outline what has happened and where we are attempting to do to ensure a viable future for the society.

Sadly, a former chairman, James Meikle Smith passed away. Jimmy or Jim as he was Known, was a dedicated family man and a highly principled gentleman it was an honour to know. He was a very supportive and generous member to not only our society but to the community in general. He was instrumental in the tragic bombing of the Ambulance Station No 5 at Woodside place being recognised; he published "Paisleys fallen in the War He championed many causes and community issues which were recognised in part when he received a Civic Award. Jim was a great family man, married for more than 50 years to Janet their lives revolved around his family. He will be sorely missed and remembered for a long time.

Recently one of our founder members, first chairman and the president, David Rowand has had some health problems. The latest reports are that he has been walking about, he continues to improve and hopefully will be able to come home soon. David's son Chris has assisted us with the magazine and the publishing of the book "Paisley Parliamentary Election 1868".

This leads into the main gist of the report.

Against the background of the following:

- 1) Loss of accommodation for committee and society public meetings at the museum;
- 2) Loss of accommodation for committee and society public meetings at the UWS.
- 3) " " " at the Abbey, the room at the west door and the use of the Cathcart Aisle which suffered water damage during the heavy summer rain storms;
- 4) The effect of restrictions caused by the coronavirus.

Many small clubs and societies will not survive.

The committee considered the way forward, the difficulties of getting speakers, venues, fulfilling the syllabus, how to proceed, newsletters, magazines, publishing, etc..

The committee were unanimous that we should continue.

Many of the membership live outwith a sensible travelling distance to Paisley, although the "Abbey" meeting held two mornings and one afternoon during the week has grown in popularity and the excellent service provided has led to their growing reputation for providing genealogical assistance.

Last year's syllabus was cut short.

The excellent magazine continued to be published; our publications continued to bring in money. We therefore agreed to continue and consider how best to proceed.

Virtual meetings appeared to be the way forward and we would need to adapt and embrace the new technology.

We hope to present a Zoom lecture in December or January and continue to provide the syllabus for the rest of the session. We are exploring the possibility of repeating meetings at different times to give overseas members the opportunity of seeing presentations and possibly radically enhancing communications. Watch your emails; check the web page; we shall update progress. It may be that presentations will have to be split because of time and memory issues which may have cost implications and these are currently being considered.

The reference to the financial aspects leads me to report on a couple of other issues, fees, presenting the accounts for approval, and a duty to hold an AGM.

We have tried to consider a HOLISTIC approach to the way forward. I have outlined the way in which we thought the needs of the membership could be provided. In order to maintain our current levels, maximise the members remaining, and encourage future recovery. To that end we decided that those who renewed their fees in 2020 should have their membership extended to 2022 and those who paid in 2019 membership would be extended until 2021. Little progress has been possible for nearly a year and after much consideration the decision about the fees was agreed.

Our membership secretary has given notice that they would carry on until the end of the current session. Is there anybody interested in undertaking this post? Indeed we need more people on committee to help continue to develop through this difficult transition period.

Thank you. I'll now ask John McGregor to give his Secretary's report.

Secretary's Report 2019/2020, 3rd Dec. 2020.

It is strange to give a secretary's report in December when normally it occurs in May of each year. Very little has been received in the way of correspondence.

Our meetings in U W S, Paisley were well attended and the speakers were great. I'm sure they were appreciated by all. Then came the year 2020. Our old friend of the Society David Roberts gave a fascinating talk about the 'Charleston' area of Paisley and was bombarded with questions. This was followed in February by a visit to 'Ayshire's Lost Mansions' by Dan Sweeney.

Then everything went haywire; full stop March onwards. Everything was cancelled.

During this period we were fortunate to have been able to produce a CD of "The John Neilson Institution" and a booklet covering "Foundation Pupils", courtesy of Glasgow City Archives. See our publications list.

This AGM (December) is our first attempt at ZOOM meetings. Those speakers whom we were not able to have earlier, (March, April etc) have all agreed to participate in ZOOM presentations and from January '21 (3rd Thursday) till normality resumes we intend to have our normal meetings through ZOOM presentations, so keep a sharp lookout for details of "Meetings" on our web site. Hopefully normal service will be resumed very soon.

As usual, because I have been secretary for so long, I am running out of ideas for speakers/subjects, which would be of interest to our membership, so I am asking for help once again. Could you please, please let me know what subjects on family history interests you and I'll do my best to source speakers appropriately.

Thank you all for your support once again and I look forward to meeting you when normality resumes.

John R. McGregor (secretary)

Accounts at 2020**Renfrewshire Family History Society****Income and Expenditure Account year ended 31st March 2020**

2019	Income	£	£
446	Subscriptions 2018/2019	673.71	
926	Subscriptions 2019/20 in Advance	855.06	1528.77
360	Publications Society	185.29	
76	Non Society	52.75	
		<hr/>	238.04
-8	Research		0.00
46	Donations		56.00
411	Find My Past		302.41
			<hr/>
<u>2257</u>			<u>2125.22</u>
Expenditure			
165	Meeting Costs - Hall Rent and Speakers		492.00
201	Printing, Stationery, Postage & Telephone		138.74
744	Journals, Printing and Postage		765.55
289	SAFHS - Subscription and Insurance		304.41
-	Projects		34.00
-	20th Anniversary Celebration (£490.98 spent and deposited)		0.00
73	Sundry Expenses		47.00
25	General Expenses		70.00
250	Abbey		250.00
122	Internet & Web Services		82.99
			<hr/>
<u>1869</u>			<u>2184.69</u>
388	Surplus (Deficit) for Year		-59.47
<u>2787</u>	Balance from earlier years		<u>3164.67</u>
3175	Balance at 31st march 2019		3105.20
Represented by			
3165	Bank of Scotland	3105.20	
			<hr/>
<u>3165</u>			<u>3105.20</u>

Examined and found to be a true and fair view of the Society's transactions for the Year ended 31st March 2020

Scottish Charity No **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. M. Allen 9/7/2020

Independent Examiner

James C. [Signature] 8/7/2020

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Income and Expenditure Account year ended 31st March 2020

<u>2019</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 2020	<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 2020**

Scottish Charity **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. m. allen 9/7/2020

Independent Examiner

Janette - Jones 8/7/2020.