

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

Held on Thursday 20th May 2021
Via computer link, Zoom

Present (of the existing Committee):

John Allen, May Allen, Peter Hutchison, John McGregor, Dr Iain McLellan, Chris McMenemy, Barbara Morrison, and Angela Ronald

There was a total of 23 participants on the evening. (16 in addition to Committee)

Apologies:

David Robb.

Minutes:

John Allen announced that the minutes for the AGM of 2020 were and had been available for inspection on the RFHS website.

The 2020 AGM minutes were proposed by John McGregor and seconded by Chris McMenemy.

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 March 2019 to March 2020:**

She announced that the Audited Accounts were on the Website and that she would leave them there for a short time.

Income

Income

1. RFHS committee agreed to suspend the annual subscription renewal for the year 2020 – 2021 as all presentations and committee meetings used Zoom and no public meetings were held. New members to pay and please note that some members have paid to support the Society. Subscription Renewals are £171 compared with £855 last year.
2. We received a single donation of £1000.00 from a member in Australia.

Expenditure

Expenditure

1. Meeting costs have changed from paying for the hire of a physical room to the purchase of an annual licence for Zoom meetings. £115.10
2. No claims for Printing, Stationery etc have been made yet – these costs are very much smaller than usual – we are only sending out material to New Members
3. Only one journal was physically produced and posted to members. The second journal was emailed to members so no physical copies and lower costs.
4. We didn't pay an insurance premium to D E Ford as we didn't have any activities to insure. (Please note we have basic insurance cover with our SAFHS subscription.)
5. Internet and Web services are up – we paid a 2-year Domain Name Registration and we also purchased 2 years for a Secure Certificate for the Society's web site. (SSL Certificate)

Surplus this year is £428 or £1428 if the large donation is included.

(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 Peter Hutchison and seconded by Iain McLellan.

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

Election:

The meeting proceeded to elect the Office Bearers and Committee

The committee and office bearers agreed to carry on for one year more with the exceptions of John McGregor (stepping down as Secretary) and Peter Hutchison who was persuaded to remain as Membership Secretary.

No others were nominated or volunteered for any of the posts.:

Glyn and Lesley Morgan were willing to accepted the position of Joint Secretaries and see how that would work. Lesley has organisational skills and Glyn computer knowledge.

John Allen remains as Chairperson.

Vice Chairman - position vacant,

Secretary – position vacant.

May Allen remains 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, John 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.

A.O.C.B.: None

The evening concluded with a talk on Renfrew, presented by May Allen.

John Allen
Chairman

Barbara Morrison

20/05/2021

RFHS CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS; 2021

I think I could say that in spite of losing two vitally important committee members, the committee somehow managed to have a successful year, especially in servicing our membership. As reported last year, we lost our accommodation for meetings, storage, presentations etc – lost our home at Paisley Abbey. We have survived lockdown and conducted our meetings through Zoom – a new medium for most of us. This was mainly achieved by May Allen who has done a fantastic job in setting up our Zoom evenings as well as dealing with an extraordinary number of IT matters. Some big, some small and more varied than would seem possible.

Zoom has enabled meetings to be viewed worldwide by the membership. In the crisis following the Covid lockdown we moved forward by improving the service and adopting more modern communications.

Unfortunately, there has been very significant problem for the Society. The committee and volunteer teams have lost numbers. We now have a society manned by a skeleton crew. Everyone of the hardworking core remaining have had additional problems or family commitments. The average age gets greater by the day!! Our former secretary, John McGregor, has indicated his wish to step down from all the duties he and Marjory were responsible for. We have no one stepping forward to fill any of the vital roles. Our membership secretary has completed an extra term having expressed his intention to step down from his position as membership secretary but hopes to continue with his other roles with the Abbey, advising and guiding many genealogists who have arrived in Renfrewshire and were trying to trace their family tree. Similarly, John McGregor has offered to assist but not undertake a complete office bearer's role.

In short, we need new blood.

We need to be able to provide a service to members while bearing in mind that the current committee are all volunteers, trying to enjoy their hobby. Their selfless generosity cannot continue.

There would appear to be three alternatives:

- a) Truly an act of faith – continue to provide a service and Zoom presentations possibly with a further leap in the dark using Webinars. (Maybe for a proactive panel to answer questions world-wide, maybe three different time-slots etc). If this is the way ahead May could do: Renfrew Part 2, another speaker could do “How a plasterer from Paisley became an Ace Fighter pilot in the battle of Britain. and it would also enable our overseas members to contribute to the journal or give relevant presentations.
- b) Try and merge with another family history society (perhaps not compatible with our electronic development and progress)
- c) Wind up the Society. This would require suitable notice and an EGM

The next 12 months are critical. Without people taking over, helping we shall be forced to call it a day!

Please volunteer to help, join the committee, you can use email – details on the Web page.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all existing members of the committee who have performed miracles these last few years.

Marjory McGregor

Marjory McGregor passed away on 6th January. She and her husband John have worked tirelessly on so much of our society's functions. Because of this the Society ran like a well-oiled machine successfully ensuring continuity for all aspects. They have looked after projects, publications, liaising with other societies fairs as well as organised the syllabus, acted as secretary and for fifteen years were the heart of RFHS. Together, they were a devoted couple, who now that their family had grown up, formed a team that so generously contributed to the success of our family history society. There was a appreciation published in our most recent journal for Marjory.

David Rowand

Sadly, I have to report on the passing of David Rowand, our Honorary President, former chairman, founder member and long serving committee member of our Society.

An appreciation of David will be published in the next journal but rather than saying a formal notification today I thought it appropriate to quote the Paisley Daily Express from their excellent appreciation of the gentleman referred to as Mr Paisley and included many reports from his wife Mary.

I quote "The man who has immersed himself in Paisley's past and brought it to life" has died at the age of 81.

Mary, his wife of 54 years said people used to say if there was anything you need to know about Paisley, get hold of David. David was born in Dunn Street on December 22nd 1939 and attended Williamsburgh Primary & Camphill Secondary School before he headed to Glasgow School of Art to study Architecture.

His interest in Paisley was lifelong and he was devoted to many societies in the town. He started the Old Paisley Society and was in the Bohemians Club for debating. David had a keen interest in genealogy (he traced his tree back to the 12th Century and found he was descended from Walter FitzAlan the 1st High Steward of Renfrewshire) and was co-founder of the Renfrewshire Family History Society.

His published works included the

- Pictorial History of Paisley
- Golden Threads – A look at Paisley's past
- Silver Threads
- And the unusual title The Jobbing Book of Mr Waterson, a Paisley Glazier, 1730 – 1747

- As well as published books, David also brought out CD's of Robert Tannahill and Alexander Wilson.
- He had an invaluable collection of Paisley artefacts, an amazing library relating to Paisley and genealogy which readily showed to interested parties.

Four years ago, he was presented with a Provost's Distinction Certificate for being an outstanding member of the community.

More than 20 years ago he was made an Honorary Fellow of the University of Paisley.

A quiet man, with his life centred around his family that he adored he will be missed and remembered as Mr Paisley the Buddie who knew everything about Paisley.

Secretary's Report - May 2021.

As in December 2020, when we had our Virtual A.G.M. via Zoom, there is very little to report. Correspondence has been few and such as was received, were duly dealt with. Zoom meetings which we have had since then, thanks to May Allen's technical expertise in organising such, have been a great success and many thanks to our speakers who were originally scheduled to speak in 2020 programme. Myko Clelland, David Cairns and Lorraine Murray were very well received and their talks greatly appreciated. I would recommend the Society to have both forms, physical and virtual when normality returns.

As you all will understand, my circumstances have greatly changed since the death of my wife Marjory. For the Society, this means that I shall not be continuing as secretary. (My wife and I discussed this kind of scenario long before she died suddenly).

Correspondence should be directed to the Chairman until a new secretary is appointed. Your committee have been fully informed of all the changes this means to the Society. I shall continue to give the Society all the help I can, but I shall not be involved nearly as much, so change is in the air.

I would like to thank everyone, past and present, for all the help given to me and express my satisfaction and joy at being your secretary for the past 14 years. I look at you all as good friends. Many thanks to all.

I also I would like to send, the future secretary, every good wish and success. Enjoy the experience.

God Bless,

John R. McGregor.

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Income and Expenditure Account year ended 31st March 2021

| 2020 | Income | £ | £ |
|------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| 674 | Subscriptions 2019/2020 | 651.51 | |
| 855 | Subscriptions 2020/21 in Advance | 170.66 | 822.17 |
| 185 | Publications Society | 135.50 | |
| 53 | Non Society | 35.50 | |
| | | _____ | 171.00 |
| 0 | Research | | 0.00 |
| 56 | Donations | | 1014.00 |
| 302 | Find My Past | | 347.97 |
| | | | _____ |
| | 2125 | | 2355.14 |

Expenditure

| | | | |
|------|---|---------|----------------|
| 492 | Meeting Costs - Hall Rent and Speakers | 115.10 | |
| 139 | Printing, Stationery, Postage & Telephone | 0.00 | |
| 766 | Journals, Printing and Postage | 350.18 | |
| 304 | SAFHS - Subscription and Insurance | 55.00 | |
| 34 | Projects | 0.00 | |
| 47 | Sundry Expenses | 0.00 | |
| 70 | General Expenses | 0.00 | |
| 250 | Abbey | 250.00 | |
| 83 | Internet & Web Services | 156.99 | |
| | | _____ | |
| | 2185 | | 927.27 |
| | -59 Surplus (Deficit) for Year | | 1427.87 |
| | 3165 Balance from earlier years | | 3105.20 |
| | 3105 Balance at 31st march 2021 | | 4533.07 |
| | Represented by | | |
| 3105 | Bank of Scotland | 4533.07 | |
| | 3105 | | 4533.07 |

Examined and found to be a true and fair view of the Society's transactions for the Year ended 31st March 2021

Scottish Charity No **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. M. Allen 14th May 2021

Independent Examiner

James C. Thompson 14/5/2021

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Income and Expenditure Account year ended 31st March 2021

| <u>2020</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 2021 | <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 2021**

Scottish Charity **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. M. Allen 14th May 2021

Independent Examiner

George Thompson 14/5/2021.