

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Annual General Meeting

21st May 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Renfrewshire Family History Society will be held on Thursday May 21th 2025 at 7.30pm at South Church, Rowan Street, Paisley and via the computer link, Zoom. The codes for the meeting will be made available ahead of the date.

The meeting is for the following purposes:-

1. Examination of minutes of AGM on 15th May 2025 which will be tabled for inspection.
2. To receive Annual Reports from the President, and the Business Secretary and approve reports.
3. To ratify the revised Constitution.
4. To receive and approve Treasurer's audited accounts.
5. To appoint an Auditor (non-committee member).
6. To elect the following office bearers:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- 7 To elect Committee Members.
- 8 Any recommendations.
- 9 A.O.C.B.

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

Held on Thursday 15th May 2025 at South Church, Paisley and
via computer link, Zoom

Present (of the existing Committee):

John Allen, May Allen, Professor Joan Curzio, Peter Hutchison, John McGregor, Chris McMenemy Glyn Morgan, Lesley Morgan, and Barbara Morrison.

Apologies:

Dr Iain McLellan, and David Robb

Minutes:

John Allen announced that the minutes for the AGM of 2024 had been sent to members via email and were and had been available for inspection on the RFHS website.

The 2024 AGM minutes were proposed by John McGregor and seconded by Lesley Morgan

Matters Arising:

None

Reports:

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

Text provided in Appendix 1.

Glyn Morgan gave the **Secretaries' Report:**

Text provided in Appendix 2.

May Allen gave the **Treasurer's Report, Year March 2024 to March2025:**

Dr. Carlene Hamilton audited the Society's Accounts for which we are grateful.

Text and Audited Accounts given in Appendix 3.

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 Joan Curzio and seconded by Peter Hutchison.

Election:

The meeting proceeded to elect the Office Bearers and Committee

The committee and office bearers agreed to carry on for one year more. There were no nominations for any of the posts of office bearers.

There are vacancies both on the committee (members now termed as Trustees) and in posts which do not require committee attendance. There were no volunteers.

John Allen remains as Chairperson.

Vice Chairman - position vacant,

Glyn Morgan remains as Secretary.

May Allen remains as Treasurer

Lesley Morgan remains as Membership Secretary.

These posts were re-elected en bloc:

Proposed by Peter Hutchison and seconded by John McGregor

The Committee was re-elected en bloc:

Professor Joan Curzio, Peter Hutchison, John McGregor, (Honorary President), Dr. Iain McLellan; Christopher McMenemy; Barbara Morrison, (Journal Editor) and David Robb.

Proposed by Peter Hutchison, and seconded by John McGregor.

To consider the Revised Constitution:

This was distributed to the membership in advance of the meeting and the changes were explained by the Secretary, Glyn Morgan (see Secretary's Report).

Adoption of the Revised Constitution was proposed by John McGregor and seconded by Joan Curzio.

The Membership Questionnaire

Professor Joan Curzio has been collating the results of the Members' Questionnaire and has prepared a report. She spoke of how please she has been by the response and that the committee members, having digested the report, will meet in June to discuss how to implement the various suggestions. The membership will be informed of those measures.

A.O.C.B.: None

The evening concluded with a talk by Bella Bathurst "*The Lighthouse Stevensons*"

John Allen
Chair

Barbara Morrison
16/05/2025

Appendix 1**RFHS Chair's Report 2025**

Due to the untiring efforts of your committee and their commitment to the Society, we have been remarkably successful in recovering from losing so many assets because of water damage to the Abbey and then the lockdown from Covid.

Using modern technology, the Society has continued to provide a service to the membership mainly through providing excellent presentations, relevant to family history research and providing supporting articles covering information about conditions of periods of interest, local history and industries.

Communications have been maintained through the magazine, Facebook written inquiries, emails and personal contact. The latter through the former "Abbey gang" and members who now meet at the Abbey Mill Café for coffee and discussions. Recommendations from word of mouth contacts have played in a significant role in introductions to the Society.

But the success of our recovery masks a real difficulty in sustaining a service for the foreseeable future. While our questionnaire received a lot of complimentary comments and had an unusually large response, the final analysis shows that the overall membership members are decreasing that there is no slack or reserve to the committee actually providing the service. In short, the ageing factor of decreasing numbers and people prepared to contribute has reached critical levels. We need more volunteers, more members, fresh ideas and help to support the committee. Indeed, volunteers to take on some of the committee roles would be a godsend.

I keep offering the Chair for any enthusiastic member.

The questionnaire was initiated to help plan the way forward, provide information about how members receive information or make use of the hybrid meetings, etcetera. Our secretary, treasurer and our question master will have brief comments on their reports relating to the way forward. Our question master who is carrying out a comprehensive analysis will also briefly comment on the questionnaire and answer any questions succinctly, but it should be recognised that the committee still have to digest and discuss the report and decide on the way forward.

The committee agreed that two members, a husband and wife team who over the years have provided an amazing amount of support and assistance until their recent retirement should be awarded an RFHS quaich.

Mr & Mrs Robertson, Thank you for all the good works you have done for us.

It struck me all members of the committee since the loss of the Abbey premises would also deserve such recognition.

Appendix 2**Secretary's Report 2025****1. RFHS Constitution**

Last year, the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) highlighted the need for the Society to have a policy dealing with Conflicts of Interest.

Rather than introduce a stand-alone document, the Committee agreed to propose that the matter be dealt with by adding a new section (Section 6) to the Society's Constitution.

As the Constitution can only be amended by an Annual General Meeting, the Committee decided to review the constitution in case any further amendments were needed to ensure it continues to meet the Society's needs.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution**a. Section 4.2**

Legislation governing Scottish Charities refers to 'Trustees' rather than Committee members, it is therefore proposed that Section 4.2 be included to clarify the legal position.

b. Paragraph 5.3

The existing Constitution requires that the Chair cannot officially be considered for re-election without stepping down from the role for a year. As John Allen has occupied the Chairman's role for many years due to a lack of alternative nominations, for practical reasons, it is proposed that the requirement to step down for a year be removed to legitimise the current situation.

c. Section 6

A new Section 6 is inserted to deal with potential 'Conflicts of Interest' as required by the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator.

d. Numbering

Content following the proposed Section 6 Section is unchanged but paragraph and section numbers have been amended to accommodate the foregoing proposed changes.

The Committee proposes that the membership accepts the revised constitution.

2. Members' Meetings

I thank members for their continued support for the society over the last year.

It is disappointing that, since resuming live meetings in March last year, the overall number of participants (Zoom plus in-person) remains fairly low.

Feedback and survey results suggest that hybrid meetings have been fairly successful but the Committee accepts that improvements are needed. The acquisition of better audio-visual equipment is under consideration and it is hoped to have new equipment available in September, after the Summer break.

As significant investment will be required, the Committee hopes both that physical and online participation levels will increase.

3. Future meetings

Speakers have been arranged for the 2024-25 session which commences from September 19th.

It is intended to continue holding hybrid meetings at the Paisley South Church Hall, commencing at 7.30 pm

18th September 2025	“Making The Best Use of The Updated Scotland’s People Website”, Ken Nisbet, Chair of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies
16th October 2025	Talk related to her book about the life of Captain John Orr by Lady Rosslyn Macphail, author of “From Fighting Napoleon to the Scottish Military Academy”
20st November 2025	Talk by Professor Emeritus Kenneth McK. Norrie LLB, DLP, PhD, FRSE “A History of Scottish Adoption Law”

11^h December 2025	Talk by Alan Cumming, “Greenock, Gourock, Port Glasgow and the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915-16”
15th January 2026	Talk by Lynnette Robertson and Alison McKenzie of Scotland’s Churches Trust - “A Race Against Time”

The programme beyond these dates is being developed.

Responses to the members survey offered some suggestions and we are always on the look-out for ideas for speakers and subjects so please let us know if you have any suggestions for the future.

4. News and Events

a. Family History Federation

The Society continues to be a member of the Federation of Family History Societies which is expanding our global profile through the Federation’s website, directory of family history societies and monthly bulletins.

b. Creative Craft Show

Barbara Morrison, Chris McMenemy and myself represented the Society at the March Creative Craft Show held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre

c. Inverclyde Heritage Fair, 17^h May 2025

The 2025 Inverclyde Heritage Fair will be taking place on 17th May (this coming Saturday) at the Watt Institute, Kelly Street, Greenock. Entry is free and the event is open from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Joan Curzio and John McGregor will represent the Society and a range of publications will be available for sale.

Previous Inverclyde Fairs were well attended with a reasonable number of RFHS publications being sold.

5. Publications

A number of CDs and printed publications have been ordered over the course of the past year.

Since converting many of the Society's CDs to a downloadable format and uploading to the Genfair Website, recent purchases have been as downloads which avoids postage costs and simplifies the process, particularly for overseas sakes.

Appendix 3

RFHS Treasurer's Report Year 2024/2025

I would like to start by thanking Dr Carlene Hamilton for stepping in to "Examine" our accounts so quickly and so efficiently.

Income

We had a surplus in this financial year of £156 compared with a surplus last financial year of £612

Income from subscriptions is up by £86.38. This can vary and also can be dependent on when members renew their subscriptions.

Net income from Publications was up by £74.3 *Please note*: the figure for 'Publications' is traditionally shown as the "sales income less the cost of postage and packing" (£23.45 this year).

Donations were down - amount £15.40

Income generated by RFH Society information on Find My Past was down by £19.61

Expenditure

Meeting Expenses were up £460 – this item was gift donations to our speakers and hall rental. Our Professional Genealogists asked for a remuneration of about £70 to £80 instead of the standard £60.

Printing, Stationery etc was down from last year – we are interacting with most of our members electronically.

There was no direct expenditure on the journals as we distributed the journals electronically.

We currently have insurance coverage as part of our SAFHS membership.

General expenses – £85.50 was paid to FFHS as our membership subscription.

Internet & Web services costs are down £82.92 -. We renewed our Zoom subscription,

our web site hosting costs, domain name registration, (SSL) Secure Sockets Layer for https security and Akismet to protect our website from too much Spam.

FUTURE

We hope to buy more equipment to improve the quality of our Zoom Hybrid meetings and to further develop our Society's web site.

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Income and Expenditure Account year ended 31st March 2025

2024 Income	£	£
733 Subscriptions 2023/2024	804.83	
438 Subscriptions 2024/25 in Advance	452.88	1257.71
160 Publications Society	245.3	
11 Publications Non Society	0.00	
		245.3
0 Research	0.00	0
21 Donations	6.00	6.00
228 Find My Past	208.87	208.87
<u>1592</u>		<u>1717.88</u>

Expenditure

460 Meeting Costs - Hall Rent and Speakers	1100.00	
0 Printing, Stationery, Postage & Telephone	0.00	
0 Journals, Printing and Postage	0.00	
55 SAFHS - Subscription and Insurance	55.00	
0 Projects	0.00	
35 Sundry Expenses	0.00	
25 General Expenses	85.50	
405 Internet & Web Services	321.70	
<u>980</u>		<u>1562.20</u>
612 Surplus (Deficit) for Year		155.68
<u>7494</u> Balance from earlier years		<u>8105.90</u>
8106 Balance at 31st march 2025		8261.58
Represented by		
7494 Bank of Scotland	8261.58	
<u>7494</u>		<u>8261.58</u>

Examined and found to be a true and fair view of the Society's transactions for the Year ended 31st March 2025

Scottish Charity No **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. M. Allen

25th April 2025

Independent Examiner

Carl Hawk

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Income and Expenditure SAFHS Account year ended 31st March 2025

<u>2024</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 2024	<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 2025**

Scottish Charity **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. M. Allen

25th April 2025

Independent Examiner

Carl Hand

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Income and Expenditure Account year ended 31st March 2026

2025	Income	£	£
805	Subscriptions 2025/2026	524.70	
453	Subscriptions 2026/2027 in Advance	440.00	964.70
245	Publications Society	184.20	
0	Non Society	2.50	
			186.70
0	Research	0.00	0.00
6	Donations	20.40	20.40
209	Find My Past	191.87	191.87
			<u>186.70</u>
			<u>1363.67</u>
			<u>1718</u>
			<u>1363.67</u>
Expenditure			
1100	Meeting Costs - Hall Rent, Speakers Zoom Eqp	2317.27	
0	Printing, Stationery, Postage & Telephone	0.00	
0	Journals, Printing and Postage	0.00	
55	SAFHS - Subscription and Insurance	55.00	
0	Projects	0.00	
0	Sundry Expenses	50.00	
86	General Expenses	0.00	
322	Internet & Web Services	324.14	
			<u>2746.41</u>
			<u>2746.41</u>
156	Surplus (Deficit) for Year		-1382.74
8106	Balance from earlier years		8261.58
	Transfer for SAFHS Account		<u>1574.73</u>
			<u>9836.31</u>
8262	Balance at 31st march 2026		8453.57
Represented by			
8262	Bank of Scotland	8453.57	
			<u>8453.57</u>
			<u>8453.57</u>

Examined and found to be a true and fair view of the Society's transactions for the Year ended 31st March 2026

Scottish Charity No **SC030406**

Hon Treasurer

L. M. Allen 1st May 2026

Independent Examiner

Carol Hand 7/5/26