

SOUTH WALES RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700285

The **Annual General Meeting** was held at the Glamorgan Archives, Clos Parc Morgannwg, Leckwith, Cardiff CF11 8AW on Saturday 13th May 2023

MINUTES

Chair's opening remarks – all were welcomed to the meeting.

A tribute was paid to the passing of our loyal and long-serving secretary Rosemary Davies on 22nd January 2023. A minute's silence was observed by all present.

Present: David Jenkins (Chair), Jeff Childs (President), Ben Curtis (General Editor), Kim Collis (Treasurer), Lisa Snook (Acting Treasurer), Sian King (Acting Secretary), Madeleine Gray, Tony Hopkins, Louise Miskell, Dylan Foster-Evans and about 15 members.

1. Apologies for absence

The Secretary gave apologies for absence from Keith Edwards, Annie Owen, Elizabeth Parkinson and James Phillips.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2022 at Glamorgan Archives were presented. The Chair explained that these were put together from memory as he was not yet able to access the late Secretary's files. When the original minutes are found, they will replace the current version. The minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report 2022-2023

The Chair summarised the activities of the year. The publication of John Gwin's commonplace book was accompanied by a successful launch event on 3 December 2022. Madeleine Gray pointed out that this event was strongly supported by the Llangwm Local History Group, and suggested this was an ideal model for future book launch events. The four usual committee meetings have been held over the year via Zoom; two new officials have been provisionally appointed during the year – Lisa Snook as treasurer and Sian King as secretary. Two committee members resigned during the year – Gerald Gabb and Christabel Hutchings. The Annual Report was approved.

5. Treasurer's Report 2022-2023

The acting Treasurer gave her report and explained the Society's accounts for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. She had taken over as Treasurer (from Kim Collis) in October 2022. The sale of publications has risen this year, due to the popularity of the John Gwin commonplace book, and subscriptions remained broadly similar to the previous year. Miscellaneous income is high owing to the transfer of £2,000 from reserves into the current account to offset the costs of the 2021 publication. On expenditure, the costs of the 2022 publication were lower than the previous year, as was the postage, due to 2 publications released and posted in 2021. Miscellaneous expenditure of £

195.46 includes a donation of £25 each to MS Cymru and to Ebenezer Evangelical (Congregational) Church in memory of Rosemary Davies, as well as the monthly bank charges.

The Society thus finished the year with a healthy balance of £3,680.27 in the HSBC account and £8,145.94 in the Monmouthshire Building Society account – a total of £11,826.21. The accounts were approved. The Treasurer reported that a change of Banking Mandate to the new Officers was in progress.

6. Nomination of auditor

The Chair proposed the nomination of Neil Pugh of Penarth, chartered accountant, ex Watts Gregory LLC, now trading as Pecuniary Ltd. A member pointed out that for a charity with an income of less than £25,000, an independent examination of accounts was deemed sufficient by the Charity Commission. The appointment was approved, and the accounts would now be sent to Neil for scrutiny.

7. Publications: General Editor's Report 2022-2023

The General Editor, Ben Curtis, gave a report on past and future SWRS publications:

The Society's volume for 2022, *The Commonplace Book of John Gwin of Llangwm, c.1615–c.1680* (edited by Madeleine Gray, Tony Hopkins and Alun Withey), was published at the end of the year, and represents the Society's thirty-fifth volume. It was formally launched at a highly successful event in December 2022, which was held in Llangwm itself.

The Society's next volume, to be published later this year, is edited by Lowri Ann Rees and is provisionally entitled *A Land Agent's Letters: Thomas Herbert Cooke at Middleton Hall, Carmarthenshire, 1841–1847*. This volume centres on the collection of letters written by Thomas Herbert Cooke, the land agent for the Middleton Hall estate in Porthyrhyd, Carmarthenshire from 1841 to 1847. Cooke's letters provide a fascinating insight into the inner thoughts and feelings and the experiences of an English land agent living and working in rural Wales. Cooke wrote very freely about his struggles to acclimatise to his new surroundings, about the local community, the Welsh language, the agricultural practices of the tenantry, and the uneasy relationship with his employer. The letters encompass the height of the Rebecca Riots in 1843 and are of particular historical significance as Cooke writes of nocturnal activities, arson attacks, and damage to buildings. They discuss how the local landed interest responded to the attacks on the tollgates and private property, and the influx of troops sent to the local area to quell the riots. A rare collection, the letters reveal far more than any official estate papers ever could. The volume's typescript is in the process of being finalised and I anticipate receiving it imminently. I will then send it for academic peer-review straightaway, after which in due course the editor and I will ready the volume for publication.

There are other potential volumes in the pipeline for later years, for which the committee has considered and given their provisional approval. These are:

- *Amy Dillwyn's Diaries, 1863–1917* (ed. Kirsti Bohata). Amy Dillwyn is a figure of historical importance: a rare female industrialist, a novelist of considerable importance in the canons of Welsh writing in English and lesbian literature. Her journals are also an important example of a more confessional style of life writing, making them a valuable resource for those interested in Victorian's women's history, LGBT history and literary history. This volume will present an abridged and annotated edition of her diaries and selected letters. The diaries span 1863–1917, though after January 1875 they are very occasional. Nevertheless, the later period provides key information about the development of her industrial concerns.
- *'These old soldiers of the mine, some of them with mutilated bodies, some minus a limb': Industrial Disability and Injury in the South Wales Coalfield, 1901–1931* (eds Ben Curtis and Steven Thompson).

In addition to these there exist several other possibilities for future volumes, which are being explored as a precursor to looking to bringing them to the committee for consideration. The committee would welcome any further suggestions from members in this regard.

This report was approved.

8. Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee

The nominations for a new Treasurer, Lisa Snook, and a new Secretary, Sian King, were approved. There had been two resignations from the Committee during the year, namely Christabel Hutchings and Gerald Gabb. Katrina Legg's 3-year term comes to an end but as she is social media officer, we would like her to remain (she is currently on maternity leave and would be contacted on her return). All were approved. Two Committee vacancies now need to be filled, and the Chair would welcome suggestions for these.

9. Appointment of Trustees

There were currently 4 trustees. Of these, Madeleine Gray and Kim Collis were standing down after long service. The Chair proposed the trustees to be:

David Jenkins
Jeff Childs
Lisa Snook
Sian King

This was approved, and amendments would be made on the Charity Commission register.

10. Subscription rate rise in 2024

To meet increasing costs, the Chair proposed a subscription rise in 2024 as follows:

Ordinary members: £25/year (rising from £20)
Overseas members: £30/year (rising from £20)
Institutional members: £30/year (rising from £20)

This was approved.

11. Any other business

There was no other business

After the meeting, members joined those of the Glamorgan History Society to hear an illustrated lecture by Tony Hopkins, Alun Withey and Madeleine Gray, editors of *The Commonplace Book of John Gwin*.