

SOUTH WALES RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700285

The **Annual General Meeting** was held at the Glamorgan Archives, Clos Parc Morgannwg, Leckwith, Cardiff on Saturday 9th May 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: David Jenkins (Chair), Jeff Childs, Ben Curtis (General Editor), Sian King (Secretary), Louise Miskell (Vice-Chair), Henry Tucker (Treasurer) and 11 ordinary members (15 members in total)

1. Apologies for absence

The Secretary gave apologies for absence from Madeleine Gray, Elisabeth Bennett and Richard Allen.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2025 at Glamorgan Archives (previously circulated) were approved.

3. Matters arising

10. Jeff Childs gave an update on the situation at Bangor University. The proposed redundancies had not, in fact, been made so the Archives and Special Collections continued with a staff of 4, albeit with some reduction in staffing hours. He also reported that the post of Senior Lecturer in Modern History had been retained, again with some reduction in hours.

Warmest thanks were expressed to those who had responded to the appeal to sign the petition.

4. Annual Report 2025-2026

David explained that it has been a difficult year for the Society. Thanks were expressed to the vice-chair, Louise Miskell, for taking over the leadership during David's illness. We are delighted to welcome Henry Tucker who was appointed as the new Treasurer in August 2025.

The volume for 2025 has only recently been sent out to all members. The Chair apologised for this late delivery which was caused by the changeover from West Glamorgan Archives (in Swansea) to Glamorgan Archives (in Cardiff). All the stock had to be moved, and Glamorgan Archives staff needed to familiarise themselves with all the processes of sorting and sending out publications.

The official launch of the 2025 book (*The Hafod Estate under the 4th Duke of Newcastle, 1832–1846* ed. Richard Gaunt) will take place at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Saturday 6th June at 2 pm. All are warmly invited to this event.

David concluded by issuing a general thank you to all committee members for their support during the year.

5. Treasurer's Report 2025-2026

Henry Tucker reported on the annual accounts:

This report will discuss income and expenditure from the last annual report until the 30th of March. The total balance across our HSBC Current and Monmouthshire Savings accounts is **£22,212.56**.

HSBC Account

As of 30th of March the HSBC balance is **£3,353.25**

Our total income this year has been **£3,576.29**.

Our total expenses this year has been **£6,760.46**.

Therefore over the course of the last year we have a deficit of **£3,184.17**.

The primary reason for such large expenses is due to the publication of both the 2024 and 2025 volumes within this financial year. Additionally we will incur additional costs at the beginning of this financial year (2026-27) due to costs associated with updating our storage and postage processes and an updated website.

Monmouthshire Building Society Account

There have been no changes to the MBS account however, the interest payments are expected to be paid out shortly. It might be worth considering an account which would provide a better rate of interest.

Membership

We have 9 individual members and one organisation who are still paying the old rates. I believe that after the newest publication, the following publications should be suspended for these members until payments are increased.

We have 7 members who have not paid any membership fees.

Paypal

I will be setting up a new paypal account over the coming days for use with the new website and events.

A breakdown of the figures was made available to members.

6. Publications: General Editor's Report 2025-2026

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

The Society's volume for 2025 was '*This Princely Habitation: The Hafod Estate under the 4th Duke of Newcastle, 1832-1846*' (edited by Richard Gaunt); it is the Society's thirty-eighth volume, and a worthy addition to the series. The distribution of this volume to members was unfortunately delayed somewhat, occurring last month instead. As befitting its subject matter, the formal launch of this volume will be held in Aberystwyth, at 2pm on Saturday 6 June 2026, at the Round Studio, Aberystwyth Arts Centre; all Society members are welcome to attend it.

The Society's next volume, to be published later this year, is entitled '*Mother must always be there*' – *An Austerity Motherhood: The Letters of Eluned Thomas*, and is edited by Colin Thomas, who is also Eluned's second son. The volume is based on the letters that Eluned Thomas née Davies, who lived in

Carmarthen then later in Cardiff, sent to her mother Margaret Davies in Cardigan from 1932 to 1956. These letters provide a vivid picture of the stresses on a mother bringing up three sons during a period when Wales was slowly emerging from wartime and postwar austerity. They also provide an insight into changing attitudes to the Welsh language – although the sender and recipient of the letters were Welsh speakers, the letters are in English. Although the whole period will be reflected in the volume, the main focus will be on the letters from the years 1945 and 1950, as these best exemplify the core themes of the lived experience of postwar austerity and recovery in south Wales.

The volume's typescript has already been sent to academic peer review, and subsequently revised in the light of the suggestions received. I am currently in the process of making final checks to the revised typescript, and Colin is finishing obtaining suitable photographs for printing as part of the volume. All being well, I anticipate the publication of this volume either in late summer or early autumn of this year.

The next volume to follow this one, for which the committee has already given its consideration and approval, is provisionally entitled *Lives of the Glamorgan Gentry As Illustrated by an Analysis of Their Wills Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1701–32 and Related Inventories*, edited by Howard Llewellyn. Those persons of Glamorgan wishing to make a will had the choice of either having their will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) or else in one of the local diocesan courts such as Llandaff or St Davids. In the case of the southern and eastern parts of Glamorgan, the local diocesan court was that of the Consistory Court of Llandaff which also covered Monmouthshire. For the will to come under jurisdiction of the PCC the testator had to own goods in more than one diocese to the value of £5 or more. This is partly the reason why persons in the west of Glamorgan such as in Swansea or the Gower came to have their wills proved in this court since their property was in some cases partly in the diocese of St Davids (which included the Gower and the Swansea area) and partly in the diocese of Llandaff. However, the PCC was mostly the preserve of those of the landowning class who had a high status such as members of the peerage, baronets, knights, various members of the hierarchy of the Church such as bishops and clerks and those having the status of esquires or gentlemen. Additional to these were members of the professions such as law and medicine. A minority of those in Glamorgan making PCC wills were tradesmen such as mercers and tailors. In analysing these wills, this volume will provide a really detailed social-history study of the lifestyle led by the gentry of Glamorgan during this period. I have already received a completed typescript for this volume and will shortly be passing it on to a suitably qualified historical expert for their academic peer review. This volume will be published in 2027, perhaps quite early in the year, all being well.

In addition to these there exist several other possibilities for future volumes, which are in the process of receiving consideration. Notwithstanding these, as ever, the committee would welcome any further suggestions from members in this regard.

7. Election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee

The following officers of the Committee were willing to continue for a further year.

President:	Madeleine Gray
Chair:	David Jenkins

Vice-Chair: Louise Miskell
Secretary: Sian King
General Editor: Ben Curtis

This was agreed by those present.

Three Committee members are leaving this year:

Richard Allen (resignation)
Elisabeth Bennett (resignation)
Tony Hopkins (end of term of office)

There are two applications to join the Committee:

Kirsti Bohata. Nominated by Louise Miskell, seconded by Colin Thomas
Howard Llewellyn. Nominated by Jeff Childs, seconded by Keith Edwards.

Elected unanimously by those present.

The following Committee members are willing to continue for another year:

Jeff Childs
Lisa Snook
Andrew Dulley
Laura Cotton

This was agreed by those present.

8. Appointment of Trustees

There were currently 4 trustees of the charity:

David Jenkins
Jeff Childs
Henry Tucker
Sian King

It was agreed that these should continue

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

SK 09.05.26