

Witheridge Family History Society

Annual General Meeting 2014

The 2014 AGM of the Witheridge FHS, held at the Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, Wiltshire, commenced at 2.15 p.m., on Saturday 31st May, 2014.

Present: **Jason Cook** (Chairman), **Kim Cook**, **Roy Cook**, **Chris Davey**, **Liz Davey**, **Barbara Finemore**, **Terry Finemore**, **Beth Neilly**. Also present, as observers, were **Derek and Sheila Nixon**. There were 16 absentee voters.

- 1. Chairman's opening address and welcome:** Jason welcomed the members of the committee to this, the 27th reunion and AGM of the Society, and thanked them for the work they had undertaken during the past year. It was especially good to have had **Neil and Rowena Witheridge and Rob Staples (Australia)** during the Reunion part of the day. Unfortunately they had not been able to stay for the AGM owing to the fact that **Neil and Rowena** had to return to London, and Rob to Newton Abbott in Devon, where he is managing the Australian team competing in the Fly Fishing Championships. Unfortunately, there were a large number of members who were not able to attend, mostly due to age and infirmity. There were important matters to be discussed, most especially concerning the future of *TWT*, now that **Kim Cook** has had to relinquish her role as Editor, owing to continued and increasing health issues.
- 2. Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence, accompanied by good wishes, were received from: **Joyce Browne, Nancy Clemente, Zoe Cook, Julia Crocker, Brenda & Ron Dixon, Bill & Brenda Dwyne, Derek & Pamela Glynn, Carol Goins, Tom & Sheila Jewell, Steve Karnes, Velma Metcalfe, Philip Milnes-Smith, Mark Neilly, Angela Rundle, Catherine & Geoff Shingler, Alison Seakins, Alison Smith, Valerie Wells, Richard & Maureen Witheridge, Judith & Allan Witheridge, Richard & Jean Witheridge, Sue Witheridge, Jennifer & Richard Woolcott**
- 3. Minutes of the 2013 AGM, held at Bell Hotel, Codicot.**
These had been published on pages 44 - 50 of the Summer 2013 issue of *Witheridge Times*, and it was agreed that they should be taken as read. The minutes were accepted unanimously (8 for, 0 against).
- 4. Matters arising from these minutes.**
Kim Cook said that there had been a discussion at the 2013 AGM concerning the need to change the password for the members section of the web-site. Unfortunately, this was not voted on at the 2013 meeting and therefore was not implemented. **Barbara Finemore** referred the Committee to the section of the Constitution which concerns the advising of members of the changing of the password at the time members subscriptions are received.

This was no longer the best time owing to the fact that members' non-payment of subscriptions are not "lapsed" until the time of the AGM. Some discussion ensued as to the best time of the year for the alteration of the password to be implemented. Following the discussion, it was unanimously agreed (8 for and 0 against) that the password would be decided on by the committee at the AGM and the **Secretary** would request the **web-master** to carry out the alteration to the members section. When it is confirmed that this has been done those members who had paid their subscription for the current year will be advised of the password by the **Membership Secretary**. The password for the rest of 2014 and up to the AGM 2015 was decided upon and the **Secretary** will advise **Bill Dwyne** of this.

5. **Matters arising from Officers' Reports.**

These reports had been emailed or mailed to members prior to the AGM.

Beth Neilly advised the Committee that she had not received any nominations regarding the position of **Editor/Publisher**. However, from the messages received prior to the AGM in response to **Kim Cook's Editor** report, it was apparent that many members felt that **TWT** should continue in some form or another.

The Committee discussed how members could be kept up-to-date with Witheridge news items. It was decided that **Kim Cook** will continue with research items, including pedigrees and would furnish members with copies of certificates and documents as and when they apply for these. **Beth Neilly** will produce short newsletters covering items of "family news" and events, and will circulate these via e-mail and post to all paid up members. **The Committee** are happy to give time for **Beth** to consider the logistics of producing and distributing these newsletters. It was agreed that all **Committee members** will look at gaining access to SKYPE in order that a further discussion can be arranged within the next few months, on the progress of this Item.

Every effort will continue to be made to encourage an Editor(s) to renew the **TWT** as soon as possible. It was agreed that **Kim Cook** had done an excellent job of editing the **TWT**, and it is hoped that someone will come forward to help out with this important role as well as assist the committee with work that needs to be done if the Society is to progress. **Barbara Finemore** felt that unfortunately the "Situation Vacant" outlined on Page 48 of Volume 27 No. 2 (Winter 2013) does not encourage anyone except an expert to take over from **Kim**. **Beth** stated that she is in no way an expert and will not attempt to fill **Kim's** shoes, but will do her best to at least keep members in touch with each other. In this respect **Beth** will seek the support of all members, especially the Overseas Representatives.

Barbara Finemore stated that there were concerns from some overseas members regarding the high exchange rate. **Beth** will look into the conditions under which **Parish Chest/GENfair** or **Paypal** can be used by overseas members to pay their subscriptions. She will then report back to the Committee.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following had been proposed and seconded for the posts listed, and had agreed to stand. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and all were elected unanimously, (8 + 16 for, 0 against).

Chairman	Jason Cook,
Vice Chairman	Chris. Davey
Secretary	Beth Neilly
Membership Secretary	Barbara Finemore.
Treasurer	Liz Davey
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Davey
Editor and Publisher	No nominations received
Research Co-ordinator	Kim Cook
Webmaster	Bill Dwyne
Committee Members	Pamela Glynn Roy Cook Alison Smith

7. Overseas Representatives.

The following have agreed to continue as the Society's Overseas Representatives and the Society is delighted to accept their offer.

Australia: Jennifer and Richard Woolcott.

New Zealand: Velma Metcalfe.

North America: *This post is vacant. The Society may appoint one representative to cover both USA and Canada, or a separate representative for each country.*

8. Appointment of Auditor.

We are very grateful to Mr. **Derek Nixon, FCIS**, a retired accountant, who has kindly agreed to act as our Auditor again this year.

9. Charity Christmas Cards for 2014.

Unfortunately, due to an administrative error, the Christmas Card for 2013 did not materialise. It was unanimously agreed that **Aplastic Anaemia Trust** will be chosen again this year. **Beth Neilly** will arrange for these to be purchased from the Trust in good time.

10. Date and Venue for 2015 Reunion.

Following the discussion concerning this item during the 2013 AGM, **Beth Neilly** had made tentative enquiries concerning the Reunion being held in Seaton, Devon. From these enquiries, it would appear that if the Society can find at least 20 members to attend from Friday to Sunday afternoon (dates yet to be decided) then the **Peacehaven Conference Centre, Seaton** will allow the Society to take over the whole building for the weekend. In the event of the Society being able to use all the bedrooms, the manager will consider reducing the price payable. **Beth** was asked to make further enquiries and to put this item on the Agenda for the SKYPE

committee meeting.

11. **Any other business.** Kim had received word from **The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS)** regarding their AGM to be held on Saturday 21st March, 2015 at the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth. Committee member(s) were encouraged to consider applying to attend this event as representatives of the WFHS, but should it not be possible for any Committee member to attend, any member of the Society may apply to go.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.30 with unanimous thanks to **Jason** for his conduct of the meeting.

Beth Neilly.
Secretary

12.06.2014.

Note: Since the AGM, it has been confirmed that the Conference and AGM of the Guild of One-Name Studies will be held on 27-29 March 2015 at Forest Pines Hotel and Golf Resort, Ermine Street, Broughton, Near Brigg, Lincolnshire, DN30 0AQ. Any member who would like to attend is asked to contact Kim Cook (witheridge1987@aol.com)