

Witheridge Family History Society

Annual General Meeting 2015.

The 2015 AGM of the Witheridge FHS, held at St. Paul's Church Community Centre (SP2) Salisbury, Wiltshire and commenced at 1.30 p.m..

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

1. Chairman's opening address and welcome:

Jason welcomed those attending the AGM, especially David Geen, our latest addition to the Society. He thanked everyone for their hard work during this past year. Unfortunately the majority of members were not able to attend the AGM due to distance, age and/or infirmity.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence, accompanied by good wishes, were received from: Joy Allbrooke, Nancy Clemente, Julia Crocker, Brenda & Ron Dixon, Brenda & Bill Dwyne, Derek & Pamela Glynn, Carol Goins, Sheila & Tom Jewell, Steve Karnes, Philip Milnes-Smith, Mark Neilly, Angela Rundle, Alison Seakins, Catherine & Geoff Shingler, Alison Smith, Robert Staples, Una Stock, Robert Tuck, Valerie Wells, Annette Witheridge, Kathleen Witheridge, Judith & Allan Witheridge, Rod Witheridge, Sue Witheridge, Jennifer & Richard Woolcott.

RESIGNATIONS.

It was also noted, with regret, that resignations had been received Richard Witheridge, (declining health); and Velma Metcalfe.

3. Minutes of the 2014 AGM, held at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, Wiltshire.

These had been circulated to members in June 2014, and it was agreed that they should be taken as read. The minutes were accepted unanimously (8 for, 0 against) and were signed by the Chairman as being correct.

4. Matters arising from these minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes, apart from matters already on the Agenda.

5. Matters arising from Officers' Reports.

These reports had been circulated to members prior to the AGM , were taken as read, and were accepted unanimously (9 for, 0 against).

Jason Cook, in his Chairman's report, emphasised, "the need for looking at ways in which we could raise the profile of the Society and create greater awareness of what we do". In response to this challenge and other points raised by officers in their reports, the officers of the Society had met together on the morning of the AGM, to discuss some of these matters. This committee meeting had been most useful and, although not all points could lead to final decisions being made at Committee level, the following proposals were agreed on by the Officers of the Society:-

- a) There is an urgent need for regular, up-to-date details of all members being available. There will therefore be a short questionnaire included in the first newsletter following the AGM, requesting that Beth is provided with these. Following receipt of the required details, a database of members will be produced and available to the Committee members.
- b) Newsletter dates will be known to members in advance and members encouraged to submit articles, photographs, news items etc., by a specific date. The numbering of the newsletters will be:
 No. 1 - 20th June 2015.(Items for insertion to be received by 15 June)
 No. 2 - 20th September, 2015.
 No. 3 - 20th December, 2015.
 No. 4 - 20th March (to include preparations for the 2016 AGM)
- c) The AGM will be held each year during the 3rd weekend in May.
- d) **Barbara** and **Beth** will look towards a Membership pack being available to new members. Ideas as to what should be included in this pack, will be most welcome.
- e) We are anxious to increase both the quantity and quality of our website, particularly the Members Only section. Again, ideas of what members would like to see on the web-site, would be most welcome. In the first instance, these ideas should be sent to the Secretary.
- f) Plans will be made to ensure that members who do not have access to computers, will not be disadvantaged.
- g) Leaflets will be produced and made available to members for distribution at Family History events in their area. Members will be encouraged to attend FHS fairs and feedback their views.
- h) **Kim** is urgently in need of help with the many tasks mentioned in her report. Whilst the Committee members are willing to help as much as they can, it would be so much better if members of the Society would contact **Kim** to see if they can help, even in some very small way.
- i) Whilst it is recognised that the present committee members have the main responsibility for the well-being of the Society, we recognise the need to be encouraging younger people to take some responsibility for the future of the Society. Plans being considered include the possibility of having a Facebook page and for this we would like at least one member from each of the countries involved in the Society, to be willing to be involved in setting up and running this page.
- j) We have recently lost the services of our New Zealand representative and we are grateful to **Jennifer and Richard Woolcott** (Australian reps) who will take the N.Z. members under their wing. For some considerable time we have been without a representative in USA and Canada and we will actively seek to rectify this. If you would like to consider this task, **Beth** will be happy to have a chat about it!!
- k) It is no longer felt appropriate to continue with the practice of Charity Christmas cards being chosen and distributed from the UK, but that overseas groups should have the opportunity of sending their own Christmas wishes in a manner chosen by them.(See item 9)

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, (9 + 16 for, 0 against).

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary

Jason Cook,
Chris. Davey
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 agreed to continue as the Society's Overseas Representatives and the Society is delighted to accept their offer.

Australia and New Zealand: **Jennifer and Richard Woolcott.**

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, for all the work has undertaken as our auditor. Derek feels that the time has come when he needs to "retire" as our auditor, and a small presentation was made to express our gratitude.

Chris Davey recommended that **Janice Cawsey** be approached to act as auditor of the Witheridge accounts, unanimously agreed that he should do so and report back to the Committee as soon as possible.

9. Christmas Cards 2015.

The Society Christmas card will be designed and produced by a young UK member, and will be distributed to all Society members.

10. Date and Venue for 2016 AGM and UK Reunion. In view of the fact that at least two of our members who were unable to attend this year's AGM, now live close to Salisbury, and the excellent facilities made available to us this year, we will seek to hold our 2016 AGM and reunion in Salisbury on Saturday 21st May.

11. Any other business.

In 2017 the Society will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. We will look at making arrangements during the remaining months of 2015 in the hope that as many members as possible, from all countries and branches of the Witheridge family can attend. The proposed dates will be Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st May, 2017!!

There being no other business, **Jason** was thanked for chairing the meeting which he declared closed at 2.40 p.m.

Beth (Neilly)
Secretary
May 30, 2015.