

W^oitheridge

Family History Society

Spring 2018

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Family News

All our Family News in this issue comes from the descendants of Philemon Thomas Witheridge (1845-1937) who emigrated from Cornwall to New South Wales, Australia, in the 1870s. This family descends from the Berrynarbor-Ilfracombe branch, which has been traced back to Thomas Witheridge, father of Nicholas Witheridge who married in Berrynarbor, Devon, in 1553.

Philemon and his wife Mary Jane had 15 children, including Philemon (born 1883) and William (born 1890). Philemon was the father of Mary Witheridge and grandfather of Robert Staples. William had five children. The eldest, Bill, was the father of Jennifer Woolcott (née Witheridge), our Australian Representative, and the fourth, Allan, married Judith, and had four sons, Greig, Neil, Ian and Paul.

Growing Family



We were delighted to hear from Judith Witheridge, one of our Hon Vice Presidents, who now lives in Unanderra, New South Wales, who writes with news of her growing family. Judith is thrilled to be blessed with her first great-grandchild. Oscar Henry Day, son of Katherine (née Witheridge) and Jack Day, and grandson of Neil and Rowena Witheridge, was born on November at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. This wedding photo of Katherine (Katie) and Jack Day was published in our Autumn-Winter 2012 issue of The Witheridge Times.

Those who were at the 2014 Reunion in Devizes, will remember how pleased we were to welcome Neil and Rowena, who joined us for the weekend.

Judith is also still basking in the birth light of her second great-grandchild, a girl this time. Emily Grace, daughter of Joel and Rachel Witheridge, first grandchild of Greig and Karen Witheridge, and niece to Dean, was born this month, and all are delighted to welcome her to the family. Emily is also a second cousin for little Oscar, who is now on the cusp of crawling.



Do you have any news you would like to share?

Email our secretary, amykennedy.ask@gmail.com, to be included in the next newsletter.

Family News

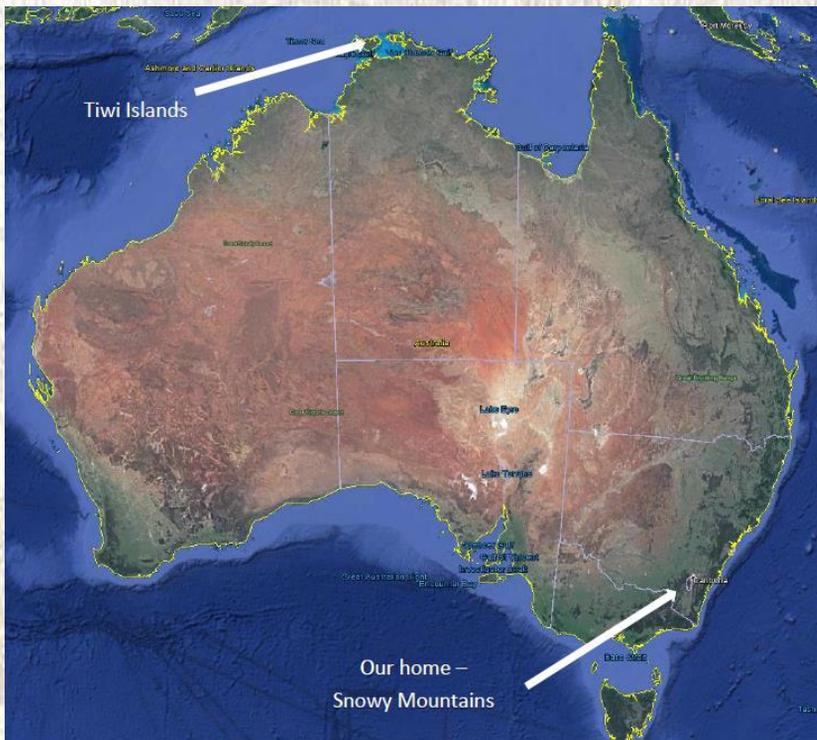
Fishing Fun

Congratulations to Rob Staples, who is now National President of Fly Fish Australia. It's Australia's turn to host the World Fly Fishing Championships in December 2019, so Rob has a busy time ahead organising the events, being held in Tasmania.

Many members will remember that when the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships were held in the UK in 2014. Rob was able to join us for our Reunion in Devizes, and gave an excellent presentation on the descendants of Philemon Thomas Witheridge.



Last year Rob and his youngest son George had a great fishing trip to the Tiwi Islands, off the northern coast of Australia. They stayed with, and were guided by, one of George's High-School mates who lives on Melville Island. This picture shows their home, and the location of their fishing trip. Between them Rob and George recorded first catches on saltwater fly of 10 different species, including barramundi, golden snapper, queen fish, and tarwhine. George caught some huge fish, including an 84 cm Barramundi.



Rob and his wife Cathy are now looking forward to a cruise on the *Queen Victoria* this summer. They fly to London on 8 August, and take in the sights before heading down to Southampton on 10 August, when they embark for a 14-day trip, taking in Scandinavian countries, Estonia, and St Petersburg. They return early on 24 August, and fly home later that night. It sounds like a wonderful trip, and we look forward to hearing all about it in due course.

Roy and Kim Cook, who met Rob at the 2014 Reunion, are planning to meet up with Rob and Cathy on their last day in the UK.

News for Researchers

Online Parish Clerks



Some of our members may not be aware of the existence of Online Parish Clerks (OPCs). OPCs compile data on the parish or parishes they adopt. Their resources include parish baptism, marriage and burial registers, and Bishops' Transcripts (BTs), censuses, tithe records and maps, apprenticeship, wills, property deeds, and directories, to name but a few. A list of OPCs can be found on the GENUKI website at www.genuki.org.uk/indexes/OPC.html.

Among the many Devon parishes listed that are of specific interest to our members are: Barnstaple, Bradworthy, Combe Martin, Ermington, Exeter Cathedral, High Bray, Ilfracombe, Kingsbridge, North Tawton, Plymouth Charles, Plymouth St Andrew, Plympton St Mary (church pictured), Plympton St Maurice, Stoke Damerel, Tavistock, Welcombe, and Wembury. Cornish parishes of interest to members include Kilkhampton, Morwenstow, Porthleven and Sithney, and the list for Warwickshire is huge, with a wide variety of sources for hundreds of parishes.

An article on 'The Role of OPCs in the Search for Surnames', was published in a recent issue of the *Journal of One-Name Studies*. The author was Wayne Sheppard, who is OPC for four Devon parishes - Cornwood, Harford, Plympton St Mary and Plympton St Maurice. He now holds over 60,000 entries from over 5,000 pages of church registers, and 26,000 entries from 1,100 pages of censuses. From these, he's built searchable spreadsheets of baptisms, marriages and burial going back to the early 17th century, organised to show how communities developed, and how families were connected through generations. Using these, and a considerable amount of lateral thinking, he's been able to solve many problems for enquirers, involving name changes, errors in documents, and the many glitches that can make our ancestors difficult to find.

Wayne Sheppard has been an OPC since 2003 and, with the aid of volunteers, has amassed his vast store of information over many years. There are still many parishes not covered by the OPC system, or with limited coverage. If you, or someone you know, could volunteer to help an OPC for a parish you already know about, or would like to be an OPC yourself, enquire via the website address above.

Filling in the gaps 1 — National Register, 1939

Most family records, including census returns and military records, are subject to a 100-year closure, to ensure that people legally required to give information to the government, will do so, being assured of confidentiality during their lifetime. This means that there's always an awkward gap in the information available to researchers. Even someone starting research in their 50s will have a gap of at least 50 years. The most recent census available is that for 1911, and the next one, for 1921, isn't due for release until January 2022. Even four years is a long time if you urgently need to find a missing piece for the puzzle.

One way of filling the gap is via the National Register of 1939. This isn't a census, and doesn't show relationships or places of birth, nor does it include everyone. Only civilians are listed. This is because, at the start of WW2, the government needed to know where people were, whether they were eligible for military service, or for ancillary service at home. It also served as a check-list for issuing documents such as ration books. Often, women's names have been altered, sometimes with a date alongside. This is an indication that they married at some time during the period of rationing, which continued until 1954. Names of people not recognised as being dead have been redacted. However, the names of many deceased people are still blacked out, but there is a way of reporting this and arranging for the entry to be unblocked.

Until recently, the National Register was available only at www.findmypast.co.uk, but it has now been added to the records at www.ancestry.co.uk as well.

News for Researchers

Filling in the gaps 2 — 1921 Census substitute

Another new source for filling the gap is the '1921 census substitute' available through The Genealogist's diamond subscription. This new resource is a compilation of residential, street, telephone, and trade directories for 1921. It's searchable by forename, surname and profession, by street, town and county, by business name and by profession, and there's even a link to a Google map showing where a property was.

Areas for which this information has already been released include Bath, Berkshire, Bradford & District, Bristol & Suburbs, Brixton & Clapham, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Channel Islands, Cheshire, Cumberland, Dorset, Derby, Durham, Hesse, Hull, Kent, Leicestershire & Rutland, Lincoln, London County Suburbs, Middlesbrough, Norfolk, Northumberland, Nottingham, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Suffolk, Westmoreland, Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire. Other areas include Aberdeen and Glasgow in Scotland, and the Channel Islands.

RAF Records

With the recent centenary of the founding of the RAF, much attention has been given to the availability of records. Any of our members with family members who served in the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) or the RAF will find many new records have been released.

RAF archives have personal and official records, as well as RAF station site plans from around the country. There are two excellent RAF Museums. The RAF Museum at Hendon, (www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/) has a collection of photos of service personnel. Unfortunately, they're not all labelled and so it can be a challenge to find a relative! The RAF Museum Cosford, at Shifnal, Shropshire (www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/) has searchable collections.

Other useful sources include The National Archives (TNA), the Imperial War Museum, and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Prisoner of War sources and casualty records from 1914-1925 are searchable online. Second World War Effects Records are archived at RAF Hendon. The museum itself is free to visit, but if you wish to use the research reading room, you will need to book in advance. Opening times are currently Wednesday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Thursday 10.00 am-1.00 pm, and Friday 1.00pm to 4.00 pm. If you would like a copy of a service record dating after 1923 then you will need to contact the RAF Disclosures Section, Room 221b, Trenchard Hall, RAF Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 8HB.

Devon Archives

The Record Offices and Local Studies Libraries that come under Devon County Council have been reorganized and amalgamated as Devon Archives and Local Studies, based at the Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter, with a branch at North Devon Record Office, Barnstaple. These now form part of the South West Heritage Trust 'an independent charity committed to protecting and celebrating Somerset and Devon's rich heritage', which also encompasses the Museum of Somerset and the Rural Life Museum, in Glastonbury.



These developments do not affect the other major Devon archive, the Plymouth & West Devon Record Office (plymhearts.org/archives), or the Local and Family History Facilities, which are now located in Plymouth Central Library and administered by Plymouth City Council. The former home of the Central Library, Museum and Art Gallery in Tavistock Street is having a huge extension, currently known as 'The Box'. Those of us who have been concerned for many years about the location of the West Devon records will be very relieved to know that they're no longer next to a tyre warehouse and other seriously flammable materials, and will be in a safe environment where temperature and humidity are controlled at the correct levels.

News for Researchers

MyHeritage Hacked

At approximately 1 pm EST on 4 June, MyHeritage learned that a file containing email addresses and hashed passwords had been found on an unauthorised server.

The file included 92.3 million email addresses of users who signed up to MyHeritage up to and including 26 October 2017 (the date of the breach), and their hashed passwords. MyHeritage does not store user passwords, but rather a one-way hash of each password, in which the hash key differs for each customer. This means that anyone gaining access to the hashed passwords does not have the actual passwords. No other data related to MyHeritage was found on the private server.

MyHeritage states that they have no reason to believe that any other information, such as actual passwords, credit card details, or data relating to family trees or DNA, has been compromised, as these are stored on separate systems which include added layers of security.

MyHeritage immediately established an Information Security Incident Response Team to notify the appropriate authorities, support customers, and expire all user passwords so that users have to reset their passwords on their next log-in. Additionally, by 15 June they had completed a two-factor authentication scheme (2FA) giving additional protection to MyHeritage accounts.

This scheme requires the account holder to designate a mobile phone number to link to the MyHeritage account. Then, at any time the customer logs in, MyHeritage will send a six-digit verification code to that number, for the customer to complete the log in. This will also apply if the customer hasn't signed on within the past month.

Further details can be found at their blog <https://blog.myheritage.com/2018/06/new-myheritage-adds-two-factor-authentication-2fa-to-secure-your-ac>.

Reunion Report

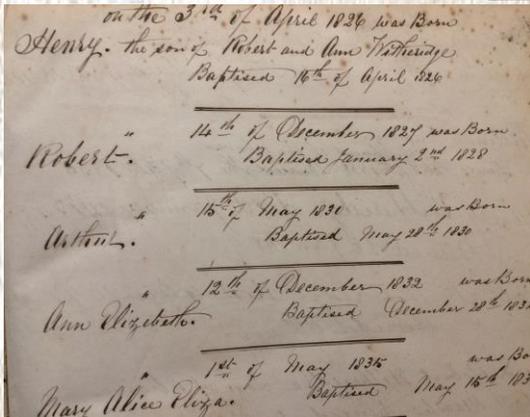
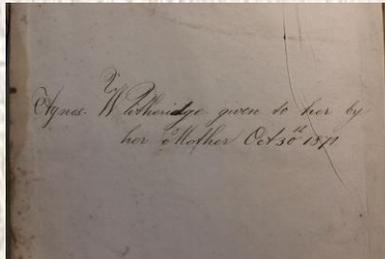


Despite disappointing attendance, we all had a very enjoyable time – good company, good food (including the traditional birthday cake), and loads of family history information. Apologies and good wishes were received from Ann Roberts, Gail Waite and Chris Wakeling, all Witheridge or Wetheridge descendants who had been invited but were unable to attend.

Research material available included GRO lists of BMDs, copy and facsimile certificates, probate indexes, the Witheridge card index, and 12 separate files of Witheridge/Wetheridge pedigrees, as well as displays for Bideford-Halwell, Ermington, Wembury, and Wetheridge of Highbury and Camberwell, each of which included additional material.



The special display for the **Ermington** branch had been prepared in the hope of including a Bible that had once belonged to Henry Witheridge (1793-1851) and his wife Ann Light (1803-1877). Sadly, the guest planning to bring the Bible wasn't able to make it, but Kim had already obtained facsimile copies of the entries in the Bible, and included these in the display.



Two paintings by the late Graham Browne had pride of place. These were of Strode Manor Farm, home to the Witheridges of Ermington from the late 16th to the early 18th century. There was also a photo of 4 Church Road, Ermington, childhood home of our Hon Vice-President Richard Witheridge, and his grandparents.



Reunion Report

One section of this display included details of Joyce Browne's father, Harry Arthur Witheridge, with his Army records and medals. The pedigree file, a compilation of additional material about the family, a family tree, and a booklet on Ermington Church, also featured in the display.



The **Wembury** display featured the pedigree file, along with a family tree showing descendants of Joseph Witheridge (born 1788, Wembury), through to the 20th century. A large part of the display was devoted to Joseph's grandson, Samuel John Witheridge, RN, (1851-1881). This included a report on his career in the Royal Navy, with his final posting as QM and gunner on HMS *Boadicea*, deployment in the Naval Brigades fighting in Zulu Wars and the Transvaal War, his death in the Battle of Majuba, and his Mention in Despatches for bravery. Pictures on display featured HMS *Boadicea*, Naval Gunners at Fort Pearson and Gingindhlovu in the Zulu War, in addition to photos of the *Boadicea's* gun crew with their Gatling gun, and the desecrated gravestone naming Samuel John Witheridge and his fallen comrades.



A smaller display for the **Bideford-Halwell** family included the pedigree file, a photo of St Gabriel's Church, Stoke Gabriel, and a facsimile certificate of the marriage there in 1829 of William Witheridge (1806-1890) and Susan Brimicombe (1806-1890), who had also been baptised there.

The **Wetheridge** display included the family pedigree file, a picture of St Mary's Church, Hornsey as it was when William Wetheridge was baptised there in 1767, and a facsimile certificate of the marriage in 1790, in St Leonard, Shoreditch, of William to Susanna Speller.

During the afternoon, refreshments were accompanied by the usual Witheridge birthday cake, ceremonially cut by our Chairman, Jason Cook. With the official Reunion over, and displays packed away, Jason, along with Roy & Kim Cook, Liz and Chris Davey, and our secretary Amy Kennedy, headed off to the Old Jail for an enjoyable meal together, before wending their various ways home.



Robert Witheridge's Bible and his family

Robert Witheridge, fourth son of Arthur Witheridge and Elizabeth Bowden, was born on 25 March 1793 in Ermington, and baptised there on 7 April 1793. In 1825 Robert married Ann Light, who had been born on 10 March 1803 in Modbury. Robert and Ann moved to Plymouth, where they lived in Higher Street, Plymouth Charles, and Robert worked as a salt refiner.

We don't know when, or how, Robert acquired the family Bible, but it might have been a wedding present. These entries in the front of the family Bible (pictured on page 6) record the births of eight children and baptisms of five of them. One son died in infancy.

Henry	Born 3 April 1826, baptised 16 April 1826.
Robert	Born 14 December 1827, baptised 2 January 1828.
Arthur	Born 15 May 1830, baptised 28 May 1830.
Ann Elizabeth	Born 12 December 1832, baptised 28 December 1832.
Mary Alice Eliza	Born 1 May 1835, baptised 15 May 1835.
George William Bowden	Born 7 February 1838.
Agnes	Born 25 June 1840.
Emma Jane	Born 13 October 1844.
Robert Witheridge senior	Died 13 July 1851 and was buried 20 July 1851.
Ann Witheridge	Born 10 March 1803, baptised 27 March 1803. Died 31 March 1877.

After Robert's death, Ann lived in Whitecross Street, Plymouth, with her daughter Emma, but later moved to Lagland Street, Poole, Dorset, to live with her daughters, Agnes and Emma. On 30 October 1871, Ann gave the family Bible to Agnes. Ann died on 31 March 1877, in Poole, shortly after her 74th birthday.

All the birth and baptism entries are written in the same hand as the entry for Robert's death, indicating that it was Ann who had kept the family records. There is no Baptism or death date of George William Bowden. George's birth was the first to occur after the implementation of the first Registration Act on 1 July 1837, and was registered in Plymouth in the March quarter of 1838. His death was registered in the September quarter that year. At that time, a death had to be registered within three days of the event, indicating that George died after 27 June and before 30 September. Ann didn't enter the date, perhaps because she was too distressed, and as we don't hold a death certificate or burial entry for George, don't know the exact date of his death.

Robert Witheridge's Bible and his family

The absence of Baptism entries for George, Agnes and Emma doesn't necessarily mean that they weren't baptised. One of the main reasons for listing Baptisms was that, until the implementation of the first Registration Act, there was no national record of births, so Baptism was the only way to prove, not only a person's existence, but also the parish in which the person had been born. The parish of birth was a key factor in determining the parish of settlement, essential if anyone fell on hard times. The parish of settlement was the one responsible for welfare, including the receipt of 'dole', a share of the food, money and clothing allocated for the poor. Fortunately, none of this family ever needed to claim parish welfare. Even though they moved from Plymouth to Poole and to London, most of them kept in touch, and some of ended up leaving London and joining others in Poole.

Henry, who had the middle name Light, became a sailmaker, and in 1851 married Mary Jane Williams. By 1854 they had moved to Poplar, London, where Mary Jane sadly died in 1866, having had five children, one of whom died in infancy. Henry was still in London in 1881, but by 1891 he had moved to Poole, Dorset, to be near his family. Henry died there in 1895, age 68, leaving 2 unmarried daughters in Poole, and a married daughter with two sons in London. His son George, also in London, predeceased him, leaving only 1 daughter.

Robert junior was apprenticed as a carpenter to his uncle Henry in Ermington, and was living there with him in 1841. In 1850 he married Emma Shepherd, and they continued to live in Plymouth until about 1867, when they moved to Holdenhurst, Dorset with their four surviving children, one having died as an infant. Another daughter was born in Holdenhurst. Robert died in 1897, and Emma died in 1908. Dorothy Linter is descended from this couple, as well as the late Joyce Browne, Bob Thomas, and other former members, some of whom remained in Dorset.

Arthur became a gilder, and in 1851 he married Florence Ann Roby Norman. By 1854 they had moved to London, where they had four daughters, two of whom died in infancy. Florence died in 1910, and Arthur died in 1911, leaving one daughter who never married, and another, who married and had three surviving children.

Ann Elizabeth married, in 1857, James Crocker, a coach builder, and they moved to Holborn, where a son and daughter were born. Later they moved to Clerkenwell, where two more sons were born. James died in 1884 and, after his death, Ann returned to Poole where she died in 1900. Ann and James had daughter who never married, and two sons who married but had no children. Their only surviving grandchild was Etheldreda who married and had a son of her own.

Mary Alice Eliza never married or had a job. Although there was no mention of illness or handicap in any of the earlier census returns, in 1901, when Eliza was 49, she was said to have been paralysed from childhood. She died in Poole in 1904, age 69.

Agnes never married, but managed the family grocery shop in Poole for many years. She died in 1924 in Poole.

Emma Jane lived in Plymouth until she moved to Poole, Dorset, with her widowed mother. In 1871 she married Isaac William Whitney, a watch jeweller of London, and they moved to Islington London. They had five daughters, one of whom died age 27, and a son, who carried on the watchmaking business. They lived in Islington until the end of their days. Emma died in 1925, age 81, while Isaac lived to be 97 and died in 1940. Their son married and had two children, as did one of their daughters.

Kim Cook

Is the internet safe?

Is the Internet Safe?

Well it's just as safe or just as unsafe as the post office!

The scams that we all read about occurring on the internet, are just old scams with a modern twist. The unscrupulous are not stupid, they have embraced the new technology. The good news is that there is a lot of organizations and individuals working to make the internet as safe as possible.

How do you remain safe? If you received a random letter trying to get you to reveal your banking details you would throw it out. Do the same on the internet, do not respond. The internet is safe if you have initiated the process.

For a bit of fun:

- Like reading, nothing like a good book - point your browser to abebooks.com and have look. Found a book you like, then order it. This is safe because you initiated the process.

- Sitting outside looking up at the sky wondering where those airplanes are going - point your browser to flightradar24.com then scroll the map to your location then click on an aircraft.

Like flightradar24? Then try this:

- 1: (close and reopen browser) go to flightradar24.com (do not click on an aircraft)
- 2: scroll the map to your area
- 3: click the plus or minus sign to adjust the map to suit
- 4: centre your home town to suit
- 5: highlight or select the link in the address bar and drag it to your desktop
- 6: right click the icon and rename to suit

Now you have a personalized "What's Overhead" link.

(The above is based on Firefox on Windows 10, adjust to suit your system.)

Miscellaneous:

Disabling Java and/or installing an ad-blocker to protect yourself may cause problems dealing with legitimate sites. When you are ordering or paying bills and some things do not work properly try an unmodified browser.

Bill Dwyne

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Witheridge FHS was held at St Mark's Centre, Church Road, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent, on 12 May 2018, from 12:30 to 14:55.

Attendees: Jason Cook (Chair), Amy Kennedy (Minutes), Kim Cook, Roy Cook, Liz Davey, Chris Davey

1 Chairman's opening and welcome

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received with good wishes from Brenda and Ron Dixon, Barbara and Terry Finemore, Philip Milnes-Smith, Geoff and Catherine Shingler, Rob and Cathy Staples, Val and Dave Wells, Susan Witheridge, Bill and Brenda Dwyne, Alison Smith, Pam and Derek Glynn, Dorothy Linter, Jim Witheridge and David Torborg, Rod and Sue Witheridge, and Jennifer Woolcott.

3 Minutes of the 2017 AGM held at St Mark's Centre, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3LB

These were read in full by the Chair, as detailed in Autumn 2017 Newsletter.

4 Matters arising from these Minutes

Barbara and Terry Finemore had sent apologies for the 2017 AGM but this was not noted in the Minutes of that meeting.

Bill Dwyne's request for pictures to add to the website was followed up by Kim Cook and the website duly updated by Bill. Unfortunately, the same pictures shared with Paul Barber were not added to Facebook.

5 Matters arising from Officers' Reports

Reports from the Chairman, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Research Coordinator were included in the Winter 2017-2018 Newsletter, along with a report about GDPR from the Secretary.

At the time of the meeting, Membership renewals were confirmed at 25 plus families and honorary members. [Following the meeting, this has increased to 26 plus families and honorary members.]

Accounts for 2017-2018 have been audited:

Balance brought forward	£1,124.10
Income from subscriptions	£381.36
Outgoings	£352.77 including

FFHS membership	£30.00
FFHS advertisement	£24.00
AGM venue hire and expenses	£142.38
Auditor's gift	£25.00
Secretarial services (3 months)	£90.00
Christmas cards	£41.39

Balance carried forward	£1,152.69
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

6 Election of Officers and Committee Members

Votes were counted by the Chair, for those present followed by those who voted in absentia:

Chairman	Jason Cook	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Vice Chairman	Chris Davey	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Secretary	Amy Kennedy	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Membership Secretary	Geoff Shingler	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Treasurer	Liz Davey	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Davey	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Research Coordinator	Kim Cook	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Webmaster	Bill Dwyne	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Committee Members*	Pamela Glynn	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
	Roy Cook	For: 5 + 11 = 16, Against: 0, Abstained: 0
Facebook Moderator*	position vacant	Bill Dwyne has volunteered to add this to his position as Webmaster as no nominations were received
Newsletter Editor*	position vacant	Amy Kennedy agreed to continue this along with secretarial services as no nominations were received

We will be accepting nominations for the vacant positions of Newsletter Editor, Facebook Moderator, and Committee Member. If you would like to volunteer or nominate someone with their agreement, please email our secretary, amykennedy.ask@gmail.com, by 1 July 2018.

7 Overseas Representatives

Jennifer and Richard Woolcott have agreed to continue as the Society's Australian Representatives, and **Jim Witheridge** and **Annette Witheridge** will continue as the Society's North America representatives. There is no present requirement for Overseas Representatives elsewhere, including New Zealand.

8 Appointment of Auditor

Janice Cawsey has agreed to act as our Auditor again for the coming year.

9 Discounted 3-year Membership

It was confirmed, following discrepancies in previously shared documents, that the proposal was to offer the option of a 3-year subscription at a reduced rate of £25 (instead of £30) with the option to transfer membership to a family member in the event that the person taking the subscription dies with more than 12 (not 7) months left of their subscription.

Jason Cook noted that a £5 discount over 3 years may not be sufficient to entice someone who was planning to join for 1 year only to remain, and may therefore potentially reduce income rather than increasing membership. All present agreed this was a perspective not previously considered, and noted that this had not been shared with those who had voted in absentia prior to their votes being cast.

Votes were counted by the Chair, for those present followed by those who voted in absentia:

For: 1 + 8 = 9, Against: 4 + 1 = 5, Abstained: 0 + 2 = 2

This is a Constitutional matter, and therefore needs a two-thirds majority to be approved as noted, in the Agenda. While a majority have voted for this change, the majority is not sufficient to meet this requirement. The proposal has therefore not been carried and no change will take place at this time.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

10 Witheridge FHS Christmas Card for 2018

Geoff Shingler has advised that Hannah would be agreeable to designing our cards again this year, on the proviso that steps are taken to maintain the integrity of her original artwork in print. Suggested options were either to commission a simplified design that is suitable in format for the requirements of the printer we have used previously, or to use an alternative printer that Hannah is aware works in a way that is suitable to her work. As Hannah's work progresses, it may become inappropriate for her to offer the same option of a simplified design in future. Examples were provided by Geoff and discussed by those present, with the consensus being that the more detailed design would be preferred if the cost of using the alternative printer were found to be viable. Amy Kennedy agreed to investigate the cost of using the recommended printer and also liaise with Geoff about this.

11 Date and venue for 2019 Reunion

In line with our current arrangements, the 2019 reunion could be held on either 11 or 18 May 2019, with Biggin Hill the default venue. No alternative has yet been suggested, however, members are invited to submit alternative proposals by 1 July 2018, in order for the final venue choice to be approved by 1 August 2018.

12 Any other business

Kim Cook proposed recognising Hannah Shingler's contributions to Witheridge FHS with a gift or voucher, as we do for our Auditor. All present agreed, and Amy Kennedy will liaise with Geoff Shingler about appropriate choices of gift.

Kim Cook has recently reviewed the list of books and magazines held by Witheridge FHS and found that many are now obsolete. The list will therefore be revised and the updated list published in a future Newsletter.

Jason Cook will contact former Facebook Moderator Paul Barber directly to regain control of the online presence of Witheridge FHS while we await further nominations and final confirmation of our new Facebook Moderator.

The Annual Reunion, at the same venue, followed immediately after the AGM.

The Reunion was open to non-members, and additional apologies were received from invitees Ann Roberts, Gail Waite, and Chris Wakeling.