



ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the AGM held at the United Church,
Leiston
Monday, 15th April 2019, at 7:45 pm.**

Attendance: Ray Green, Pat Carter, Peter Bush, John Peters, Clive Strutt, Maggie Strutt, Di Mann, Henry Mann, Chris Broom, Jan Lovell, John Farmer, Mavis Thompson, Margaret Moss, Elisabeth Young, Marian Peskett, Trevor Peskett, Laurence Moss, John Fisher, Christine Palmer, Neil Palmer, Steve Stocks, Angela Skelcher, Richard Marson, Pippa Marson, Richard Morrison, Jackie Linnell, Janet Barnes.

(30 members attended, 1 non-member)

1. Welcome and Chairwoman's Opening Remarks

Good evening and welcome to the AGM. Thanks go to the committee and those attending.

2. Apologies for Absence

John Last, John Martin, Mick Ayres, Roz Ayers, Denise King, Heather Maybey, Nigel Turner, Mary Oliver, Cilla McFarlane, David McFarlane.

3. Minutes of the 10th AGM, 16th April 2018

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved and signed by the Chairwoman as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Reports from Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary

Chairwoman's Report

See Attachment (1).

Treasurer's Report

Steve Stocks submitted the Accounts, signed off by John Martin, with a report – see Attachment (2). Janet Barnes asked how much on average a speaker cost, and do we need to increase the entrance fees? Angela Skelcher, Programme Secretary, replied that average cost is £50 per speaker, and entrance fees need not be increased. Pat Carter added that about 10 members have not renewed, the reason given being that they could not make the monthly talks due time changes.

Secretary's Report

Angela Skelcher apologised for any inconvenience caused by monthly talks being on different days of the week and in different locations. This is due mainly to the fact that with the Co-op (Solar) changing their parking policy, it is now no longer feasible to hold meetings in the UC. Committee members and the speaker need to get to the hall around 45 minutes before the start, and would need more than 2 hours parking. It was also noticed last summer that the sun streams in through the windows of the UC making it almost impossible to see images on the screen, and there are no curtains.

One solution may be the Waterloo Centre, which is part of the old Leiston Grammar School. This is in the process of refurbishment, and the committee have been invited to look around it.

Membership Secretary's Report

Pat Carter reported that there are 85 paid up members of the Group, and two more ready to renew their subs.

6. Election of Officers and Committee

- (i) **Chairwoman:** Di Mann to continue in post: proposed by Steve Stocks, seconded by Maggie Strutt, carried unanimously.
- (ii) **Treasurer:** Steve Stocks to continue in post: proposed by John Hayward, seconded by Pat Carter, carried unanimously.
- (iii) **Secretary:** Angela Skelcher to continue in post: proposed by Maggie Strutt, seconded by Jackie Linnell, carried unanimously.
- (iv) **Membership Secretary:** Pat Carter to continue in post: proposed by Angela Skelcher, seconded by John Peters, carried unanimously.
- (v) **Other members of the Committee:** to continue in post, voted in en bloc and carried unanimously.

7. To determine the rates of subscription for 2019 (that they remain the same): proposed by John Peters and seconded by Peter Bush, carried unanimously.

8. Proposal to amend Rule 9: proposed by John Hayward, seconded by Henry Mann, and carried unanimously.

Meeting closed at 20.15 hours.

This was followed by a discussion led by Chris Broom, see Attachment (3) for report.

Signed: -

ATTACHMENT (3)

Report of discussion held after AGM on Monday, 15th April 2019

Chaired by Chris Broom

Group undertakes many activities, e.g. volunteering at Help Centre and sizeable projects that mean a lot of work. Next, one coming up is St Margaret's Church MIs – if you fancy a bit of fresh air, meeting fellow family historians, and doing something of benefit to locality, come along. Also the Saxmundham UC Flower Festival on 15th – 16th June. Will take along Sax materials, e.g. war memorials, tithe records, etc. If more people are involved, our reputation is enhanced.

Problem of moving around days and places of monthly talks. Some members not renewing due to this. Holding them out of Leiston itself is not a problem, but people like them to be on the same day of the week, i.e. third Monday of each month. Merits of holding it in evening vs. daytime – John Hayward pointed out evenings better for people who work.

Chris asked about the subject matter of the talks – John H thought they were good. Richard Morrison said there were lots of things he did not know about and they he found them very helpful. Saw feature about Group in Leiston Observer.

Peter Bush asked about visits, e.g. in past we have gone to Yarmouth (Nelson Museum), Gressingham in Norfolk, etc. Chris said people showed interest at AGM but not much interest when it came to signing up. Suggest paying money up front?

Local vs. Family History subjects for talks? John P said attendances speak for themselves. Janet Huckle can give a talk for beginners. Quick poll: half audience are currently researching own family history. Di said wished to emphasise family history orientation. Sacrifice attendees for more FH topics?

- Local history talks v well attended
- Not enough FH speakers
- Janet Barnes can do a talk on the village of Middleton -> parish boundaries, late 1700s to present day. Has been researching it for 20 years.
- IRO: suggest Kate Chantry.
- Behind the scenes tour? – done that already, and with transfer to Hold likely to be v busy for next couple of years. Not receiving any more materials after May 1st.
- Margaret Ward, Yoxford Antique Centre has written books and lectured. The Female Line.
- Janet B: Robert Liddiard and David Sims of Uni of Herts, book on Suffolk Sandlings in WW2 (Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History). A12 -> sea. Library has one copy. [Details: next page 📄]

[Main Title: *A very dangerous locality: The landscape of the Suffolk Sandlings in the Second World War* **Author:** Liddiard, Robert & Sims, David **Imprint:** UK : Univ of Hertfordshire Press, 2018
Collation: 363 p : ill ; 25 cm **ISBN:** 9781912260089]

Older people and computers: Do members need to be taught how to use their pc's to record FH in an easy way? We could hold Help Centre session for this. It was also suggested that oral history is an important resource, and can even be done by video. Voices of ancestors, e.g. your own father telling a

joke can be very valuable part of your family history research. Laurence Moss was interested in this. Janet urged everyone to write down identity of portraits on back of photographs! Chris added that you could keep a digital record.
