

# HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

7.00 pm, Tuesday 17 June 2025, via Zoom

Present: Dr Nick Barratt (President)  
Members of the Executive Committee and Development Forum  
Members of the Society

### Notes on voting totals:

- There were 55 devices logged in.
- There was more than one individual member on some devices.
- Joint members have only one vote, not two.
- The President does not have voting rights.
- Trustees cannot vote for their own election.
- Due to the difficulties of vote-counting online, the number of individual voting members has been taken as 55, and the number of votes against or abstentions deducted from this to give the number of votes for.

### 1 Welcome by Tony Sinclair - Chairman, Hampshire Genealogical Society (HGS)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those from overseas, and noted that an AGM is vital to any organisation to keep everything official.

It was advised that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of the minutes only and would not be available on the HGS website.

Tony then handed over to Dr Nick Barratt, the Society's President, to conduct the first part of the meeting.

### 2 Apologies for Absence

The Society's Secretary, Jane Painter, advised that apologies had been received from Steve Cull, Karen Harrison, Melvyn Hayward, Jerry King, Jill Lee, Val Petrie, Stephen Pomeroy, Fiona Ranger and Rosemary Stone.

### 3 Minutes of 2024 AGM (18 June 2024)

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Proposer:	Rod Whale	In favour:	20
Seconder:	Di Miles	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	35

The President had reminded attendees that if they were not present for the 2024 AGM then they would need to abstain. After the vote he formally approved the minutes.

#### 4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 5 Chairman's Annual Report

The full report had been posted on the HGS website along with the other AGM papers, but Tony gave a summary.

This was his last Chairman's Report since, as previously advised, he was standing down after two years because family commitments and personal events were preventing him from giving the Society the time and effort it deserved.

It had been an eventful twelve months since the 2024 AGM, including the Society celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Highlights included:

- A very successful two-day Golden Jubilee Conference in July, attended by over 100 members and non-members on each of the two days.
- A series of four online tutorial sessions from July through to the autumn. These were recorded and made available to members via the website for a period of time.
- Whilst researching the Society's 50 years, it was found that a small number of the founding members from 1974 were still current members. In October 2024, to mark their continuing support and loyalty, an afternoon tea was arranged and presentation certificates were awarded to six original members.
- Since the last AGM, the Society had recruited a Projects Manager, Steve Cull, and his Assistant, Keith Williams, who were overseeing current and future HGS projects.
- The roles of Office Manager and Sales Manager had been separated, allowing the Office Manager, Sue Stannard, to focus on the daily running of the HGS office. Our newly-appointed Sales Manager, Forbes Johnston, and his team now focus on ensuring all details of items ordered via the HGS website or email are processed efficiently.
- New volunteers continue to be recruited to staff the HGS Help Desk at the Hampshire Record Office, although more were always welcome. Anyone able to help should contact Sue Stannard via email at [officemanager@hgs-online.org.uk](mailto:officemanager@hgs-online.org.uk)
- In December, a 'Christmas Open House' was held for Volunteers, during which they were thanked for their help during the year. The event also offered them the chance to meet other Volunteers whom they may not see on a regular basis.
- A new printing firm needed to be found to publish our quarterly Journal, *The Hampshire Family Historian*. Forbes Johnston and Jane Painter were thanked for their work to achieve a virtually seamless changeover in time for the June 2025 issue.
- The Society's website has been under review and there are plans to enhance it with some new offerings and functionality that will improve the experience for website visitors.
- The setting up of a Consultation Group, which will look at ways the Society can recruit and retain members, how to promote the Society more widely, how we can reach out to other people and organisations, how we can/should embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI), plus other areas relevant to the Society.
- The Society's Vice Chair, Kay Lovell, had taken responsibility for our Governance Policies, updating and revising existing Policies such as Health & Safety, Customer and Volunteer Care, as well as the duties of Trustees.
- The Society's Treasurer, Ann-Marie Shearer, stood down at the 2024 AGM but has remained as a Trustee and given invaluable assistance in the search for her successor.

Early in 2025, Debbie Painter was appointed as the co-opted Treasurer, to be formalised by election at this AGM.

- As well as Tony stepping down this year, two other Trustees were not seeking re-election - Fiona Ranger and Phil Brown. Fiona had been a Trustee since 2020 and will continue as our Bookstall Manager, as well as maintaining her Publicity and Liaison roles. Phil has also been a Trustee since 2020 and always said he would work with the Society for five years. During the search for a new Treasurer, the Society needed somebody with financial knowledge to monitor our accounts and Phil very kindly fulfilled this role until recently.
- To replace the Trustees who were standing down, several new Trustees had been nominated for election later in the meeting.

Tony then handed back to Nick as President.

Nick wished to recognise that Tony had led the Society very well, including the Golden Jubilee, and thanked him on behalf of the Society for all his work over his two years in post. Tony thanked Nick for his kind words and confirmed that he would still remain as Winchester Group Organiser.

## 6 Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Nick thanked Debbie Painter for stepping in, producing the accounts and providing stability. The accounts had been published on the website.

There being no questions on the accounts, it was proposed that they be accepted.

Proposer:	Julie Muirhead	In favour:	54
Seconder:	Maureen Goss	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

Although it was always difficult to tally the voting online, Nick felt that the mood of the meeting was that it was clear that the accounts had been accepted.

## 7 Appointment of Auditors

It was proposed to reappoint Morris Crocker, Chartered Accountants, as the Society's auditors.

Proposer:	Paul Pinhorne	In favour:	55
Seconder:	Sue Stannard	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	0

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

## 8 Appointment of Charity Trustees

Details of those standing for election or re-election to the Executive Committee had been made available to the membership via the website.

### Appointment of Chairman

Nick advised that there had been no nominations for a new Chairman. The Society was looking to expand the number of Trustees and would continue to seek a new Chair. He was satisfied that the Executive Committee had suitable capability and capacity to manage the Society in the meantime.

### Re-appointment of Vice-Chair - Kay Lovell

Proposer:	Di Miles	In favour:	54
Seconder:	Richard Backhouse	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

Nick congratulated Kay on her re-election.

### Re-appointment of Secretary - Jane Painter

Proposer:	Marion Gilmour	In favour:	54
Seconder:	Debbie Painter	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

Jane was duly re-elected.

### Re-appointment of Trustees

The following were all willing to continue and were elected en-bloc:

Terry Gilmour  
Ann-Marie Shearer  
Sue Stannard  
Keith Turner  
Angela Winteridge

Proposer:	Sue Wheatley	In favour:	50
Seconder:	Patricia Knight	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	5

### Appointment of New Trustees

Having been co-opted earlier in 2025, the following were appointed as Trustees:

#### Steve Cull

Proposer:	Forbes Johnston	In favour:	54
Seconder:	Sue Decicco	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

#### Forbes Johnston

Proposer:	Sue Stannard	In favour:	54
Seconder:	Chris Pavey	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

Debbie Painter - as Trustee

Proposer:	Ann-Marie Shearer	In favour:	54
Seconder:	Sue Stannard	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

Debbie Painter - as Treasurer

Proposer:	Ann-Marie Shearer	In favour:	54
Seconder:	Sue Stannard	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

Owen Rowe

Proposer:	Tony Sinclair	In favour:	54
Seconder:	Forbes Johnston	Against:	0
		Abstentions:	1

Nick noted that there could be a maximum of 13 Trustees, and the Society now had 11 so there were still two vacancies. However, he was aware that there were some potential candidates still to talk to, including a possible Chair.

He then thanked Jane for preparing the paperwork and briefing him for the meeting, and handed over to Kay as Vice Chair.

**9 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**10 Date of 2026 Annual General Meeting**

The AGM must happen within six months of the end of the financial year (31 December) so the next AGM was likely to be in June 2025, exact date to be confirmed. This would again be held via Zoom as this is more inclusive for out of county and overseas members.

**11 Close**

Kay thanked everyone for attending and Nick for hosting. She also wished to take the opportunity to thank the retiring Trustees.

She said that she and the Society would miss Tony's forward thinking and enthusiastic approach. She was sorry to see him leave the Executive Committee but pleased that he was remaining as Winchester Group Organiser.

Fiona was not able to attend the AGM. Kay reported that Fiona had worked very hard as a Trustee but would be continuing as Bookstall Manager and with her Publicity/Liaison role ... whilst also being a member of AGRA, professional genealogist and having her own horticultural business! Kay wished to thank her for her exceptional service.

Phil was also not in attendance but had brought his business experience and skills and his passion for genealogy to the Committee, at a time of great complexity, and he was thanked for all his work.

Lastly, Kay welcomed the newly elected Trustees - Steve, Forbes, Debbie and Owen - and advised that their biographies were on the website.

The AGM was officially closed at 7.53 pm.

DRAFT