

Lancashire Parish Register Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Committee Room, the Central Library, Manchester, 1pm Saturday 23 April, 2007.

Council Members Present

Thomas Woodcock (President), Alan Kenwright (Hon Treasurer & Membership Secretary), Colin Rogers (Hon General Editor), Phil Stringer, Ken Taylor, Richard Bond, Neil Hudson, Simon Oliver (Hon Assistant General Editor) Simon Jelf, Dr John Perkins, John Dalton, Thomas Steel and Marnie Mason (Hon. Minuting Secretary)

LPRS members present

Thomas O'Brien, Sylvia Rudman, Roy Ainscough.

1. **Apologies:** Douglas Wilson, Katharine and Peter Elwood, Craig Thornber, George Cadman sent his apologies. He said that he wished to retire from Council, but was committed to continue transcribing for the Society. At the time he was transcribing Shaw, Oldham 1704-1837 and making good progress. Douglas Wilson also sent his apologies. He is committed to remaining on Council as Auditor, but will step aside if anyone else wishes to join Council.
2. **Minutes of the 2006 AGM** After discussion the minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting held 23rd April, 2006 and after minor corrections, it was agreed that they were a true record.
3. **Matters arising:** After an initial discussion, it was agreed that where appropriate any matter outstanding would be discussed during the meeting
4. **Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary Report:** A statement of receipts and payments for the year to 31st December 2006 was presented to the meeting and supplemented by the following points by the Treasurer.
 - Donations were up. Most notable is the £3000 given by Prescott PCC and the individual £1000 amounts given by Martin Ainscough, J P Partington, Lancashire CC and B&D Print. The latter was a refund on a volume which had to be re-printed. The many small donations were made up by individual members.
 - The amount collected on volumes sold is substantially down. This is due to the fact that in the previous year the Society held a sale of back volumes. The increase in the sales of CDs reflects the number of volumes produced in this way.
 - The Society produced four hardback volumes with Mitton and Hawkshead being produced on Microfiche.
 - The laptop computer was purchased for use by the Hon. Editor.
 - Adams Self-Store is being used for the storage of back volumes
 - CD copier (which was brought prior to the 31 December, but was not paid for until January 2007) is for the use of Paul Dwerryhouse and will allow the Society to produce its own CDs.

The Treasurer ended his report by stating that the Society was in a healthy financial condition and urged the Editor to continue publishing volumes whenever they came available, not only in hardback form but also on CDs.

- Neil Hudson also wanted to be noted the work of Paul Dwerryhouse, who is responsible for the production of CDs. Over £600 has been raised through sales.

Membership: It was reported that there had been a slight increase in ordinary membership but that Alan forecast that there would be a slight decrease in the coming financial year probably due to the increase in the subscription. However, he continued that the Society lost members through a variety of reasons and also acquired members throughout the financial year. He hoped that the increased rate of publications would continue and encourage more people to join. 430

- **New Members** Mrs Elaine Ainsworth; Mr Jim Spencer; Mr G J Deakin; Mr John Fitton; Mr Brian J. Owen; Mr Frank Pye; Mr Michael Statter; Mr RFW Cook; Mrs Julie C Davey; Mrs Christine Gash; Ms

Rhondda Mol; Ms Marie Anderson; Mr Keith Bamford; Mr Colin Gilchrist; Ms Susanne Cruickshank; Ms Patricia Etchells; Ms Ruth Taylor; Mr Brian T. Simpkin; Ms Elizabeth Evans; Mr Trevor Hockenhull; Ms Lynn Lewis; R. J. Hayhurst; Mrs Lilian Hancock; Mr Eric H. Kelly; Mr John Cosgrove; Mr H E Ulyet; Mr. Martin Rigby; Mr Richard E. Greer; Mrs Patricia Scott; Mr Stephen John Ward; Mr Neil Whitfield; Mrs Sylvia Walch; Ms Lynda Atkinson; Mrs Sheila Macklin; Mr Alan Craven; Miss Denise E. Gore Ms Catherine Howard-Dobson

- **Resigned:** Mr C E Brade, Mrs Morag Crossley, Mr Frank Hodges, Ms Dorothy Jones, Ms Sheila Johnston, Mrs F R S Rennie, Mrs Joan S Hamilton, Miss J June Stretch
- **Died :**Mr James D Beckett, died February 2005; Mr Frank Gilman, died 2005; Mrs Joyce Winter, died 26 March 2005; Mr John D Richardson, died 21 July 2005

The Financial report was accepted and passed unanimously by the meeting and a vote was taken thanking the Hon Treasurer & Membership Secretary.

5. Honorary General Editor's Report

- Colin began by apologising that volume 165 (Heywood 1813-37) was not ready for distribution at the meeting. He reported that it was necessary to change printers. This was due to there original firm not being prepared any longer to use Pagemaker the indexing system used by the LPRS. However, the new printers were unsatisfactory and the two volumes concerned had unacceptable mistakes, which involved then finding yet another printer. Colin went on to say that the new printers were taking their time and volume 165 should have been out to members in January.
- Simon Oliver reported on the progress of the Ulverston registers, which was at the binders and would be designated as volume 166. He also reported on the status of Todmorden which could also be ready for publication in the near future
- Colin went on to say that with the exception of Over Wyresdale (still awaiting permission to publish) there was no reason why the rest of the volumes listed in his report as being ready for publication should not be published.
- Alan Kenwright said that he felt the registers of Standish should be published as a matter of some urgency. He had £1000 of donations towards publication. It was then proposed that Standish 1653-1732 should be designated as volume 167 and Ulverston as volume 168
- He also proposed that Whalley, Darwen and Tockholes be printed in one volume
- Colin reported on the status of the Stretford registers. He anticipated that it could be published in the next 12 months. However, he explained that the register would be published in two parts in one volume. Originally, the registers had been transcribed into 5 volumes by Dr Bosdin Leech in the 1940s. Unfortunately one of the volumes, which covered 1598-1781 had been lost about ten years ago. Consequently, Colin had re-transcribed the registers for those years and this would be published as Part 1. Part 2 1781-1857 covers the transcriptions by Dr Leech. Colin further explained that the two parts would be very different. The first part would be a 'word for word' unedited transcription, whereas the second part would be in the usual LPRS format. He thought that it could be published on CD.
- Turning to Ormskirk, he proposed to continue publishing on microfiche. As a result of the decision to include material included in the registers such as grave inscriptions, etc, the present volume runs to over 500 pages. After much discussion it was decided that the whole transcription should be published in one volume.
- Colin then suggested that the decision to included extraneous material would be a question that would arise every year if this resulted in a very large volume. After much discussion it was decided that the information included would be basic from the PR or BT.
- Colin explained that the purchase of the UV lamp which was housed at Manchester Central Library was of great value in reading old registers. Its use is restricted to LPRS editors and the Library archivists.
- Ken Taylor then reported on the progress of Lowton St Lukes which he is editing. The work is almost complete and only awaits the completion of the introduction.
- In a written report, George Cadman wrote that he was making good progress with the registers of Shaw, Oldham 1704-1837.
- Colin suggested that there was no reason why all the volumes listed in his report as being ready for publication 2007-8 should not be published.
- Colin suggested that any volumes published from now on should carry the new Hon. General Editor's name. The meeting, however, felt that as Colin had supervised some of these volumes his name should

be included. One suggestion was that both names should be included. However, Colin still objected and it was decided that the matter should be determined by both Alan and Colin.

A vote was taken thanking Colin for his report and for all the years he worked as General Editor.

6. **Would the Society consider sending some CD volumes attached as an e-mail?** After some discussion it was decided to ask the membership via the *Newsletter*.
7. **Who should answer e-mail/website enquiries? What the rules of engagement should be? What the guidelines to be followed should be?** Neil Hudson said that he had been dealing with enquiries as members could easily access him via the *Newsletter*. He said that he would continue to do so unless any other Council member would like to do it. After some discussion it was agreed that Neil should continue answering the enquiries.
8. **LDS have requested permission to use our master index on CD in any form they chose.** After some discussion it was decided that the Society would not grant permission. Some members stated that in the past the LDS had downloaded LPRS volumes but had never asked permission to do so
9. **A request has been received from the South Australia Genealogy and Heraldry Society for permission to upload the master index on CD onto their in-house computers. Similarly, should permission be given to libraries and societies who allow their computer indexes to be used by the public?** The meeting agreed that permission should be granted.
10. **Election of Officers:** Alan Kenwright said that he would like to resign as Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary to become the next Hon. General Editor on Colin's retirement. He was asked if he felt confident that he would be able to recommend someone to replace him at the 2008 AGM. In the meantime members would be notified by the Newsletter when a volunteer had been found. The other officers said that they were happy to continue in their present positions, and were elected.
11. **Election of Council Members**
 - Resignations from Council were received from George Cadman and Craig Thornber. All the other Council members were happy to continue.
 - Colin Rogers and Tom O'Brien were elected as ordinary members of Council
12. **Election of Auditor**
 - Douglas Wilson had confirmed in his letter of apology, for not attending the meeting that he was willing to continue as Auditor and was elected.
13. **Election of Independent Examiner**
 - Mr David Hignett had signified that he was ready to continue in this position and was elected.

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- John Dalton asked what arrangements had been made for the safe storage of the LPRS archive. He was concerned about the shelf life of microfiche and CDs. After much discussion it was agreed that various options would be investigated.

The President summed up the proposed publication schedule for the coming year.

- Joint volume for Heywood and Oldham
- Joint volume for Whalley, Tockholes and Darwen
- Single volume for Standish

Date and Time of the next meeting

- This was decided to be 26th April, 2008 dependant upon an available room at Manchester Central Library, and subject to permission by the Library authorities.
- A vote of thanks was taken for the use of the Committee Room and Richard Bond was asked to convey the Society's appreciation to the Library authorities.

