



## **Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 4th April 2025 at Brampton Bryan Village Hall.**

**Present:** Thirty five members and two non-members attended – listed at the end.

**Apologies:** Received from thirteen members – listed at the end.

### **1. Welcome**

Paul Dryburgh welcomed everyone to the fifteenth annual general meeting of the Mortimer History Society and said how much he had enjoyed the tour of Brampton Bryan provided by Edward and Victoria Harley, who had made us very welcome. He thanked the Trustees and officers for all the work they had put in during the past year.

### **2. Minutes of AGM 2024 and matters arising**

The minutes of the AGM 2024 had been circulated with the notice of the meeting. It was pointed out that Alastair Ayton's name had been misspelled under Item 6. It was agreed that, with that exception, the minutes be accepted (proposed by Kathy Cowell, seconded by Hugh Wood, agreed unanimously).

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **3. Trustees' Report**

The written trustees' report had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Philip Hume thanked Paul for his active presidency and for opening the meeting. He reported on another successful year for the society. Rather than reading the written trustees' report verbatim, he described some highlights of the previous year:

1. Thanks for the kindness of the Vizards, the new owners of Wigmore Abbey, in allowing the use of the Abbey for committee meetings and social events;
2. Thanks to the Trustees and the Treasurer for a year of continued growth and financial strength;
3. Thanks to Annie Garthwaite for tackling the thorny issue of the Society's social media presence, which she had successfully sorted out, and also for taking the lead in managing the bursary programme, which was having a very positive effect on the academic world's perception of the Society;

4. Thanks to Kathy Cowell for a very successful schools programme, and for producing the Mortimer family tree posters;
5. Thanks to Alastair Ayton for the successful publication of Volume 6 of the MHS Journal.

He asked that the meeting accept the trustees' report (proposed by John Peacock, seconded by Barry Gandy, accepted unanimously).

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report and the annual accounts had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Mike Beazley presented the accounts. He highlighted that the society completed the year with a large surplus of income, due largely to the delay in publishing the Journal. It remained in an excellent position financially for the start of the 2025 events season, with substantial reserves. The meeting noted that the Bursary Fund stood at £2,416 which would enable two bursaries to be awarded this year.

The meeting agreed the annual accounts for 2024 and unanimously accepted the Treasurer's report and the proposal to continue with Natasha Lawrence as Independent Examiner (proposed by Mike Beazley, seconded by Kathy Cowell, agreed unanimously).

#### **5. Membership Secretary's Report**

The Membership Secretary's Report had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Mike Beazley highlighted that at the end of 2024 membership stood at 493, and that since the end of 2024, membership had continued to increase to 509, which was the largest the Society had ever been. In response to a question about encouraging young academics to join, Philip Hume pointed out that the essay prize and bursary fund are already going a long way to achieving this.

The meeting agreed to accept the Membership report unanimously (proposed by Yve James, seconded by Clive Jupp).

#### **6. Election of Trustees**

Twelve people had put their names forward for election as Trustees. As the constitution allows for up to 12 Trustees, this meant that there was no need for an election and the following were elected for the period until the end of the next AGM in 2026 (proposed by Philip Hume, seconded by Barry Gandy, agreed unanimously).

Alastair Ayton, Ian Bass, Mike Beazley, Kathy Cowell, John Fleming, Annie Garthwaite, Elizabeth Holley, Philip Hume, Angela Iliff, Yve James, Clive Jupp and Pamela Thom-Rowe.

#### **7. Programme for 2026**

The 2026 programme of conferences, lectures and study trips was circulated at the meeting. Philip highlighted a few:

1. The 17th of May in person and online conference on the Mortimer dynasty;
2. The 2nd of July online conference on the Mortimers in Ireland;
3. The Garden party at Wigmore Abbey on the 19th of July, which would be a fund-raiser for the essay prize.
4. The October in person and online conference to mark the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta (1225 version);
5. An online conference in November on a religious theme.

#### **8. Date of 2026 AGM**

The date of and venue for the 2026 AGM were yet to be confirmed.

Philip thanked everyone for attending..

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Beazley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Beazley  
Meeting Secretary

**Members Present:**

Yve James, Clive Jupp, Kathy Cowell, David Cowell, Liz Phillips, Gail Peacock, John Peacock, Annie Garthwaite, Mark North, Alastair Moir, Beverley Moir, Bryan Swann, Trish Hayward, Peter Hayward, Lorraine Munn, Paul Morrison, Duncan James, Graham Saunders, Jan Saunders, Tanya Parkes, David Parkes, Elizabeth Watt, Ian Bass, Gareth Williams, Catherine Hunt, Doris Wood, Hugh Wood, Lynne Eaves, Rhiannon Powell, Barry Gandy, Ruth Butler, Paul Dryburgh, Philip Hume, Mike Beazley, Maureen Lloyd (35 members) and Jennifer Francis and Kirwen Swann (non-members).

**Apologies received from:**

Steve Briggs, John Fleming, Sue and Godfrey Hack, Steve Holder, Angela Iliff, Caroline Johnson, Liz Molyneux, Ian Mortimer, Jason and Elizabeth O'Keefe, Pamela Thom-Rowe and Ann White.