



Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 26th March 2022 at Weobley Village Hall.

Present: Twenty-nine members attended – listed at the end.

Apologies: Received from twenty members – listed at the end.

1. Welcome

Hugh Wood welcomed everyone to the thirteenth annual general meeting of the Mortimer History Society and to the talk by Elizabeth Holley on the medieval history of Weobley that would follow the formal meeting. Hugh expressed the debt of gratitude the Society owed to its founder John Grove, who had died in December. He informed the meeting that the summer lecture would in future be called the John Grove Memorial Lecture in memory of him, and that a special event would be held in July in cooperation with the Friends of Usk Castle, with whom John had also been closely associated.

2. Minutes of AGM 2021 and matters arising

The minutes of the AGM 2021 had been circulated with the notice of the meeting. It was agreed that the minutes be accepted as written (proposed by Hugh Wood and seconded by Mike Beazley, 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.

Hugh began by thanking all the trustees for their work and support during the previous year, and particularly Mike Beazley (Treasurer) for agreeing to take these minutes. In his absence, Hugh spoke glowingly of the immense contribution of our Secretary, Philip Hume, whose vision, commitment and tremendous energy have largely been behind the successful development of the Society over the past few years.

Hugh reported on another successful year for the society, Covid notwithstanding. He explained that the report aimed to show how the Society met its charitable objects. He explained that, over the coming months, the trustees will be considering the future direction of the Society, and that views from members will be very welcome.

Rather than reading the written trustees' report verbatim, Hugh gave an overview of the range of activities of the Society over several years. Services to members of the Society included

1. lectures and symposia covering a wide variety of subjects related to the medieval English and Welsh history, the Mortimer family and life in the medieval Welsh Marches;
2. study visits to places connected to the Mortimers and the Marches;
3. the establishment of special interest groups within the Society;
4. publications & information including the Annual Journal, *Mortimer Matters*, new books and the website

Apart from directly serving its members, we are involved in promoting the Society and the medieval history of the Mortimers and the Marches in other ways:

1. the Essay Prize, aimed particularly at young academics, to encourage them to research areas of interest to the Society with a view to identifying lecture subjects and lecturers and to providing good quality articles for the Journal;
2. sponsorship of strands of the Leeds Medieval Congress;
3. the Schools Programme now being extended to Hereford and Ludlow 6th Form College;
4. attending community events to promote the Society, such as the Battle of Evesham festival;
5. Wigmore Castle – meeting English Heritage to consider ways and means of addressing the issue of access to the castle.

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 small surplus of expenditure for the second year in a row, due largely to the effects of Covid, but that it remained in an excellent position financially for the start of the 2022 events season, with substantial reserves.

The meeting agreed the annual accounts for 2021 and unanimously accepted the Treasurer's report and the proposal to continue with Natasha Lawrence as Independent Examiner (proposed by Fran Norton, seconded by Brian Holley).

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 2021 membership stood at 444, a net increase of 24 members (a 6% increase), though also noted that since the 1st of January membership had continued to increase to 455. Whilst 70% of members live

in the West Midlands and Wales, 9% are from overseas and 20% live elsewhere in the UK.

The meeting agreed to accept the Membership report unanimously (proposed by Mike Beazley, seconded by Hugh Wood).

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 2023:

Mike Beazley, Cathy Cowell, John Fleming, Lesley Frith, Annie Garthwaite, Elizabeth Holley, Philip Hume, Angela Iliff, Yve James, Clive Jupp, Kirsten Lawton-Smith and Hugh Wood.

7. Proposal from the Trustees to revise and simplify the constitution

Hugh introduced the item and asked Mike Beazley to explain the process that had been undertaken. The constitution had been revised to remove duplication and unnecessary cross referencing, to improve the layout and readability and to clarify certain issues. No substantive changes had been made. He proposed that the members accept the revised constitution. This was seconded by Hugh who asked for a show of hands. The revised constitution was accepted unanimously.

8. Programme for 2022

The 2022 programme of conferences, lectures and study trips was circulated at the meeting.

Ideas for future events and activities were expressed from the membership:

1. Broaden the remit to include other Marcher families.
2. Medieval knowledge, science, medicine etc.
3. The Cistercians and other religious orders active in the Marches and Wales.
4. Social history such as daily life in a Marcher castle.

9. Date of 2020 AGM

It was agreed that the date of the AGM in 2023 would be Saturday 25th of March at Orleton Village Hall and St George's Orleton.

The formal meeting closed at 10.36 and was followed by an excellent talk by Elizabeth Holley on the medieval castle and borough of Weobley and a guided tour of the village.

Mike Beazley

Mike Beazley
Meeting Secretary

Members Present:

Eddie Ashman, Linda Ashman, Mike Beazley, Daniella Bergman, Lesley Frith, Linda Hart, Elizabeth Hill, Elizabeth Holley, Brian Holley, John Hopkins, Jonathan Hopkinson, Noriko Horiuchi, Anthony Jones, Clive Jupp, Gil McHattie, Fran Norton, Valentina Peate, Susan Powell-Jones, Liz Phillips, Arnoud Roele, Judith Roele, Graham Saunders, Janice Saunders, Lyn Sargent, Cynthia Spencer, Mary Jane Thomas, Elizabeth White, Doris Wood, Hugh Wood (29 members).

Apologies received from:

Llama Choesang, Esther and Andrew Colby, John Fleming, Philip Hume, Angela Iliff, Yve James, Caroline Johnson, Liz Molyneux, Lorraine Munn, Gail and John Peacock, Anthony Rich, Karen Spooner, Martin and Denise Toms, Elizabeth Watt, Gareth Williams, Vanessa and Mike Williams.