

# FRIENDS OF DEVON'S ARCHIVES

## MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 24 November 2 p.m.

HELD VIA ZOOM

**In Attendance - Committee:** John Allan (President), Katharine Chant (Chairman), Frances Billinge (Secretary), Brian Carpenter, Abi Gray (Publicity Officer), Ian Maxted (Treasurer) Richard Spear, Peter Towey (Membership Secretary).

### **Other Members -**

Elly Babbage, Marcia Babington, Beryl Bletcher, Mike Brett, Judith Cannell, Christine Cavill, Veronica Johnston, Andrew Jones, Celia King, Emma Laws (representing the Devon and Exeter Institution), Robert Letcher, Diana Lewis, Ian Mortimer, Bruce Peeke, Robert Rowland, Martin Watts.

**Visitors:** Des Atkinson, Ann Claxton, Trevor Dymond, John Farrand, Janet Few, Roger Keys, Richard Knights, Elizabeth Knowling, Penny Lawrence, Penny Martin, Ros Palmer, Rosemary Payne, Richard Sandover, Michael Smith, David Stone, Chris Wakefield.

### **1. Welcome by the President**

John Allan was delighted so many had attended via Zoom. Welcome to new faces and to the Norden project attendees.

### **2. Apologies-** Cllr Roger Croad, Marion Hardy, Sue Jackson, Kate Osborne, Christopher Pound, Maureen Selly Devon Family History Society, Stuart Windsor.

### **3. Confirmation and Adoption of the Minutes of AGM of 21 September 2019**

Proposer Ian Mortimer. Seconder Ian Maxted. Agreed unanimously.

### **4. Chair's Report – Katharine Chant**

My report this year will be brief not least because the bulk of our activity this last year has been the Norden project and David Stone will be briefing us all at the end of the meeting.

This has not been an easy year for any organisation so I would like to start off with thanking committee members who have kept us well and truly afloat – special thanks to Brian Carpenter for keeping us connected on-line and managing today, to our efficient, as ever, Secretary, Frances Billinge, to Ian Maxted for his equally efficient treasuring and to Abi Gray for calmly managing the programme changes and working on the promotion and, finally, a big thanks to Sue Jackson for her ceasing the moment with the newsletter – so informative. Ian Mortimer has continued kindly as webmaster but really now has to give up and we are seeking someone else – offers please. This year committee member Richard Spear is standing down – he has done a magnificent job keeping The Box progress firmly on the FODA agenda – thank you

In pursuit of our mission - the preservation and use of historical records throughout Devon and to raise public awareness of their importance for research and education – we have this year:

- made a further grant of £1K to the Devon and Exeter Institution for ‘Our region revealed – Unlocking the treasure of the Devon and Exeter Institution illustration collection’. You will have seen in our last newsletter and, if you are also member of DEI, in their newsletter and webpages the fantastic progress Carol Anderson has made both cataloguing but equally important bringing alive on-line this magnificent collection; this grant has enabled them to purchase a scanner which will greatly speed up this work.
- gave a grant of £1K to the Devon Heritage Centre and were the major funders of their purchase of the Bampton Court Roll of 1549. This was written up in the last newsletter, of course.
- Not in the last financial year reported to this AGM but very recently we made a grant for the purchase by Devon Heritage Centre of the account book of the Walrond family of Bradfield, c.1647-1660 - a fine volume, with detailed entries relating to the running of the estate, improvements to the house and details of those employed by the family complementing other records held relating to the Walrond family.
- Last but not least we successfully bid £20K to NLHF and the Norden Survey Project got underway not quite as we had planned due to the Pandemic - we will be hearing about this soon. We greatly look forward to next year picking up the project seminars in person at the Devon Rural Archive at Shilstone,

And finally I would like to say how delighted we are that the Plymouth & West Devon Record Office has managed to re - open in The Box - can't wait to visit.

**5. Treasurers's Report --Ian Maxted**

Accounts to posted on FoDA web site. Noted the income form NLHF which is included under the occasional publications section. Proposer Peter Towey, seconder Brian Carpenter. Agreed

**6. Membership Secretary's Report- Peter Towey**

There are 161 members compared with 169 last year. Noted that Margery Rowe sadly died this year, she was well known to members through her extensive archival work and publications.

**7. Election of Chairman**

John Allan took the chair. Katharine Chant nominated. Proposer Martin Watts, seconder Celia King. Agreed. Emma Lawes of Devon and Exeter Institution noted thanks to Katharine Chant for promoting the links between FoDA and D&EI

**8. Election of Officers Standing for a Further Year**

Proposed en bloc. Proposer Ian Mortimer, seconder Celia King. Agreed.

**9. AOB**

Peter Towey noted there had been a problem with the tithe information on the website. Thanks to Ian Mortimer and Peter Best who promptly sorted this hitch.

**10. Date and Venue of AGM 2021**

The 2021 AGM will be held in the Autumn. Thanks to Abi Gray for kindly offering Devon Rural Archive as a venue.

Meeting concluded at 2.26 p.m. with thanks to Brian Carpenter for arranging the Zoom

Dr Frances Billinge  
Secretary FoDA