

GLAMORGAN HISTORY SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS HANES MORGANNWG

Registered Charity Number 511498

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at Glamorgan Archives on 9 May 2026 at 2.45pm.

22 members attended whose names are recorded on the attendance sheet.

1. Chairman's address

The Chairman, Professor John Tucker, welcomed members to the meeting. He noted that the quorum for the AGM is 20 members of the Society, so was pleased to confirm business could proceed as intended.

He reminded the meeting of the core activities of the Society:

- The biannual lecture at our AGM held jointly with the South Wales Record Society. This year it's our turn to arrange the lecture, and after our meeting we will hear Huw Williams on The General Strike of 1926.
- The Autumn Day School in November.
- The publication of our journal, Morgannwg.

The past year was our 75th anniversary. The Autumn Day School was held at the Heronstone Hotel, Bridgend. Given our 75th Anniversary it was devoted to 'Writing the History of Glamorgan'. The Secretary will report on the Day Schools in 2025 and 2026. Morgannwg was first published in 1957. This year's was Volume 69.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Society we created and distributed a particularly attractive bookmark (equipped with a QR code). He thanked Council member Stephen K Jones for designing and organising this for us. He encouraged members to use and share the bookmarks to draw attention to the Society.

The Society has supported the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative (WHSI) for several years by sponsoring the Patricia Moore Prize. It was awarded to Cyfarthfa Park Primary School, Merthyr Tydfil, for their project, 'Heroes and Villains - Should we be proud of Merthyr's Heritage?'. The WHSI is well established, celebrating its 35th year in 2025, and is a complex pan-Wales operation, and has collected many sponsors. We will present the 2026 Patricia Moore Prize at Swansea Waterfront Museum on 7 July. The Award ceremonies are quite splendid.

We thank the South Wales Institute of Engineers Educational Trust. You recall their financial donation to our anniversary year, and the suggestion that we develop a prize to recognise major contributors to Glamorgan's history. Council have developed a formula for a George Thomas Clark Award For History, which will be a senior prize for significant contributions to the study of Glamorgan's history. We hope to award it at the Autumn Day School.

The Chairman thanked Ross Gill, who has taken on the role of Treasurer; Professor Maddy Gray, who comes to the end of her term as Joint Editor of Morgannwg; Kim Collis, who has taken on the role of Joint Editor, and Andrew Dulley, who has stepped down as maintainer and editor of our website.

We have need of volunteers to fill two further positions:

- A Joint Editor to work with Kim Collis
- We are embarking on refreshing our website, so we need to have a volunteer Website Officer.

With regards nominations to Council, the nominations have been circulated. Council has of a maximum of 10 ordinary members. We are also keen to have nominations from local history societies, who Council can co-opt so they don't need to be elected at the AGM.

The work that the Society encourages depends on the work of archive services and archivists, libraries and librarians. We thank Glamorgan Archives for hosting the AGM, Council meetings and our assets, and West Glamorgan Archives for their support.

We are keen to be of service to these and all institutions that are the foundation of our domain.

2. Apologies

John Alban, Peter Brookes, Hugh Clatworthy, Gillian Drake, Madeleine Gray, Bill Jones, Stephen K Jones, Katrina Legg, Jenny Sabine, Jean Silvan Evans, James Stewart, Hilary Thomas, Nigel Williams

3. Minutes

These were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

9i) Jeff Childs updated the meeting on the proposal at Bangor University to reduce the staff at the University Archives. The situation has turned out better than imagined, although some reductions to hours have been made. The Senior History Lecturer post, which was also under threat, has been retained but again at reduced hours. Hopefully this episode is now closed.

5. Secretary's report

A successful Autumn Day School was held on Saturday 8 November, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Society with the theme of 'Writing the History of Glamorgan'. The Secretary thanked our speakers, Prof. Huw Pryce, Prof. Heather Williams, and especially our President Prof. Prys Morgan who stood in at the last minute with a wonderful paper on one of the Society's founders, Griffith John Williams.

Arrangements are in place for the 2026 Autumn Day School to be held on Saturday 7 November, at the Heronstone Hotel, Bridgend. The theme will be 'Glamorgan and America', inspired by 250 years of American independence. Speakers have been confirmed as Prof. Angela John, Hywel Davies and Paul Frame.

Plans are also being made for the 2027 Autumn Day School, which will be a joint event with the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates. ISWE is based at Bangor University, and this event will focus on the estates of Glamorgan. Planning is in the very initial stages but it should be an exciting event.

The Secretary would like to appeal to members who have email addresses but have not yet provided them to the Society to do so. Email communication is much quicker and easier, and also eliminates postal costs which are quickly increasing.

She thanked Andrew Dulley for his work in maintaining the Society's website for many years. She also thanked our outgoing Joint Editor, Prof. Madeleine Gray, for her incredible contribution these past years which is very much appreciated. And thanks were given to Council members and Society officers for their support during the year.

6. Treasurer

The Treasurer circulated the annual accounts.

He noted a slight fall in income, which in turn leads to a fall in the amount of Gift Aid received. There has been a slight fall in expenditure too. The Society recorded a small surplus in 2025, although not as much as that for 2024. The creditors and debtors noted in the accounts have been resolved. The Treasurer also confirmed that our turnover is well below the threshold for an independent audit.

Going into 2026, the Society has a reasonable amount of money in the bank and interest payments have increased.

The Treasurer noted a number of challenges for the year ahead, all connected. None are catastrophic, but they will grow over time:

- Reduction in subscriptions
- Underpayments due to standing orders not being updated to the new subscription rate following the change made some years ago.
- Changes in the way people want to / can pay, with cheques and cash less frequently used.
- Rise in costs, in particular the cost of printing of Morgannwg, and postage costs, especially internationally.

The new website will have means of direct payment into a paypal account. The Treasurer will also look at getting a card reader for the Autumn Day. He will chase

again for outstanding payments and email addresses. Moving forward on all fronts will make a difference.

The Treasurer noted that he feels that as a Society we deliver a huge amount for our turnover of £5k pa.

Questions were raised and answered:

- It was asked if the costs of producing and posting Morgannwg could be separated in future. The Treasurer will incorporate this into future reports.
- The number of members was confirmed as 254 members, with 300 copies of Morgannwg printed. Some members, and in particular institutional members, request multiple copies and copies are supplied to contributors.
- It was noted that more members seem to be paying the old subscription fee of £10 than the new fee of £15. The Treasurer will continue to chase these members, but can do little beyond that. The option of not sending Morgannwg and treating the lower payments as donations was discussed and will be raised at Council.
- Options for promotion of the Society were discussed. The new website will go some way towards helping with this.

7. Subscription fees

It was proposed to increase the annual subscription fee from £15 to £20pa, with a new fee of £30pa for those subscribing from outside the UK. The international rate reflects the increase in the cost of postage outside the UK.

The Treasurer noted that this will be an opportunity to ensure those subscribers currently paying £10pa move straight to £20pa.

A discount for students was suggested but the management of the process would need to be considered by Council before bringing a proposal to the AGM.

The change to subscription fees was proposed by Kim Collis, seconded by Stephen Rowson, and carried without objection.

8. Editor's report

Kim Collis reported on behalf of the Joint Editor, Prof. Madeleine Gray, who was unable to attend the meeting. He has been supporting her for the past 6 months or so and is familiar with the next volume.

The forthcoming volume is almost complete, with four good long articles, featuring the Vulcan Hotel at St Fagan's, and David Stoker on dilapidation and Llandaff Cathedral (this will be the first part of an article spread over 2 volumes), along with shorter articles including the lecture delivered by Prof. Prys Morgan at the Autumn Day School. The volume should be with the printers in June and available to members in the autumn.

Kim Collis noted that if the copy is submitted as a pdf to printer it could reduce costs as typesetting wouldn't be required. He is hopeful that he will be able to do this.

If anyone would like to take on the role of Joint Editor working alongside Kim he would be very grateful.

The Editor also appealed for short articles and book reviewers for future volumes, and noted that reviewers do receive a copy of the book.

The Archaeological Notes will appear once again, thanks to Dr Olivia Husøy-Ciaccia from Heneb. They are shorter than past notes as they do not include diagrams or maps etc. This may change in future.

9. Election of officers and members of Council

Council nominations for officers and for additional Council members were:

Chairman:	Professor John Tucker
Treasurer:	Mr Ross Gill
Secretary:	Mrs Rhian Diggins
Editor of Morgannwg:	Mr Kim Collis

Members of Council (2026–2028): Mr Paul Frame, Mr Chris Jones-Jenkins

The above were elected.

Agreed unanimously.

Council can co-opt up to four members to represent local history societies. These co-opted members do not need to be elected at the AGM and serve on Council for a year. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary. Currently, Mr Hugh Jones is co-opted to represent Swansea Valley History Society. Carolyn Jacob, Merthyr Historical Society, and James Wild, Llantwit Major Historical Society, will be standing down and were thanked for their contributions.

10. Any other business

i) The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the new volume from South Wales Record Society, 'The Princely Habitation – The Hafod Estate Under the 4th Duke of Newcastle' by Richard A Gaunt. It will be launched on Saturday 6 June, 2pm, at Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

ii) Pat Jones-Jenkins, on behalf of the Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust, will be launching a volume celebrating the 400th anniversary of the building of the first castle by Thomas Morgan of Machen. It will take place on Saturday 6 June at 2pm at Twyn Hall, Caerphilly.

iii) The Joint Editor, Kim Collis, proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Joint Editor, Prof. Madeleine Gray. This was agreed unanimously.

iv) Mr Jeff Childs noted the recent passing of Prof. Peter Stead, a former Secretary of the Society and a contributor to its Journal.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.35pm. Following the meeting Mr Huw Williams spoke on 'The General Strike of 1926: A Centenary Remembered'.

Signed as a true record of proceedings

..... [Chairman]

..... [Date]