

The Dalton Genealogical Society

2018 Annual General Meeting **held on Saturday 20th September 2018**

at 2.30 pm at 2 Harewood Close, Reigate, Surrey

M I N U T E S

Present: Michael Dalton Howard Dalton John Dalton
Geoffrey & Jane Dalton Maureen Collins

1. Welcome and opening remarks by the Chairman

Michael Neale Dalton welcomed those present to Reigate. He remarked that it was a small gathering, but nevertheless hopefully sufficient to enable the important AGM business of the Society for 2018 to be conducted.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following members, and partners of members:

Pippa Bairstow	Rosemary & Charles Dow	Alicia Riley
Adrian & Eve Dalton	Audrey & David Dalton	David & Barbara Dalton
Karen D'Alton	Howard J Dalton	Jen Dalton
Kate Dalton	Sheila Dalton	Wendy Fleming
Barbara Hoblit	Pamela & David Lynam	Gerald & Margaret Milner
Karen & David Preston	Edna & Hannah Redpath	Ian Simpson

and a number of others unable to join the meeting.

3. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting and matters arising

These had been published in DGSJ Vol 67 (Dec 17). They were taken as read, and accepted unanimously as a true record with a copy being signed by the Chairman. It was agreed that any matters arising would be covered during the course of the meeting.

4. Chairman's report

The Chairman opened his report by thanking the DGS officers, committee members and others for all their hard work during the year. He referred to the retirement from the committee after seven years of Mike F Dalton previously announced, and of Pamela Lynam, for many years Secretary of the Society and more recently a committee member. Both were thanked for their contribution to the work of the Society. A particular thank you was extended to David Preston for all his work advising on and implementing the necessary DGS Privacy Statement and Data Protection Policy in order to comply with the requirements of the EU

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Particular thanks were also expressed to Howard Dalton as DGS Treasurer & Membership Secretary; and to John Dalton as Editor of the DGS Journal.

Michael then drew the attention of the meeting to various items that had crossed his desk during the year. These included:

- Preparation of the obituary for Dr Stella Dalton who died in August 2017 at the age of 89.
 - Follow up on enquiries arising from the 2016 Manchester and 2017 Hull Gatherings.
 - Numerous enquiries about the Dalton International DNA Project.
 - Interactions with the Federation of Family History Societies and the Guild of One Name Studies
- and much more.

In conclusion, Michael reminded those present of the statement he made at the last AGM about his planned retirement as Chairman at the end of 2020. He noted that there is still no new blood coming forward to join the committee and expressed particular concern that Maureen Collins had not been replaced as Australian Secretary and likewise Pamela Lynam as the Society's General Secretary. He shared the hope that suitable successors would be identified over the next two years.

5. Treasurer's report – Accounts for year to 31 December 2017

The Treasurer, Howard Dalton, presented the accounts for the Society for the year to 31 December 2017. These showed total income of £1,730 and expenditure of £1,584 giving a net surplus of £146. Subscription income had fallen by £430 reflecting the loss of renewing members. The cost of Journal printing and distributing had reduced slightly. There was a surplus of £288 on the Hull Gathering. Howard drew particular attention to an accrual of £300 to cover agreed expenditure on GDPR and other regulatory requirements. Overall there was a satisfactory net surplus for the year, which when added to the brought forward balance on the capital account gives a total of £7,462 at the year end, represented by cash held in the UK and USA bank accounts. Full details will be found in the accounts annexed to these minutes.

Howard reported that he is reviewing the management of PayPal and Australian subscriptions. He also recommended that the continuation of subscriptions to FFHS and Clans of Ireland be reviewed. Following discussion, it was agreed to continue the subscription to the Federation, principally because it includes public liability insurance. Regarding that for the Clans of Ireland, it was agreed to renew for 2019, with a request that Karen D'Alton advises on ongoing value to the DGS of membership.

The adoption of the accounts as tabled was proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by Maureen Collins and carried unanimously. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Howard, which was enthusiastically endorsed by those present.

6. Membership Secretary's report

Howard Dalton, in his role as Membership Secretary, presented his report, noting a current total of 155 members, with 57 in North America and the remaining 98 in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and Australasia.

- North America membership had declined from 78 to 57 (27%).
- UK/Eire/Australia etc membership had declined from 122 to 98 (20%).

- It could be down as low as 78 (36%) – there are up to 20 potential resignations due to non-payment of subscriptions.
- Total membership down from 200 to 155 (23%).
- The worst-case scenario is that it could be down to 135 (33%).

How ever one looks at these figures, they are very disappointing.

It was agreed that Howard should circulate his list of 20 potential resignations to see if any can be persuaded to continue their membership by personal contact from a committee member. Maureen commented that since her resignation as Australian Secretary a year ago, Australian membership had fallen from 33 to just five.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

All present officers and committee with the exception of Pamela Lynam offered themselves for re-election. There were no further nominations. Michael proposed that all be re-elected “en bloc”, seconded by Howard and carried unanimously.

The lack of an Australian Secretary, and of a Society General Secretary were noted. The Chairman agreed to appeal to the membership again and it was suggested that individual members should be identified and approached personally. In discussion it was agreed that this situation is undoubtedly contributing to the decline in membership. There is no substitute for personal contact with members, particularly when they first join and then need to be encouraged to renew their subscription.

8. DGS Journal Editor’s report

John Dalton reported on his work as Editor of the Journal. Since the last AGM, Vol 67 (Dec 17) and Vol 68 (Jul 18) had been published with a wide selection of articles of interest. Material available for Vol 69 (Dec 18) was described as “thin”. Offers were made by those present to put articles together. There was discussion about requesting new members to write something for the Journal and the meeting reviewed the list of new members recorded in Vols 67 & 68. John agreed to approach individuals selectively and persuasively!

The Chairman thanked John for his continuing work and again encouraged all members to submit material for publication.

9. Dalton International DNA Project (DIDP) report

The Chairman gave a verbal report. He said there had been a lack of contact with Chris Pomery, and therefore no progress on the next edition of a DIDP Report. However, there is still considerable interest in the project and Karen Preston and he have welcomed a number of new participants to the project over the past year. The world of DNA testing is moving on with much more emphasis on and success with autosomal tests. The Society should now review how to take this forward in conjunction with the traditional Y-DNA testing, on which historically DIDP has been based. It was agreed that Karen and Michael will review and discuss the situation further, and agree how best to take the project forward.

10. Report on the DGS websites

A very comprehensive report prepared by the DGS webmaster David Preston had been circulated before the meeting. The substantial decline in the numbers of visitors to our

websites is of considerable concern. In discussion, the meeting reviewed David's conclusions in the last section of his report looking at 2018 onwards. There was general agreement about the various points. In particular:

- The DGS should review the usefulness of each element of our web presence on a regular basis.
- GDPR needs a measured response recognising that the DGS a very small organisation and what we do needs to be proportionate to our resources, both in cost and time. There was unanimous approval for what we have done so far.

Grateful thanks were expressed to David and Karen for the ongoing donation of server space, Dropbox back up and archiving. It is fully understood that the DGS has to bear the burden of costs associated with GDPR, and there was hearty endorsement of the endeavours to minimise these whilst complying with the legislation.

11. American Secretary's report

Karen Preston had submitted a report previously circulated. The key points of her report were as follows:

- At the end of August 2018, following a major update of membership records occasioned by GDPR, there were 57 North American members (56 in the US, 1 in Canada).
- To date in 2018, there are 7 new members and 2 former members have re-joined.
- Even with these, North American membership has declined by a net 20 in the past year.
- We entered the 2018 fiscal year with \$4,430 in the DGS North America bank account. To date \$453 has been taken in membership dues.
- At the end of August 2018, cash on hand in the DGS North America account was \$4,474 and there was a balance of \$1,444 in the PayPal account, net of PayPal fees.
- DGS North America continues to be a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt non-profit entity in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service of the State of Nevada. It has now been confirmed that the Society is exempt from the new "Commerce Tax", since we do not have a physical location in Nevada and do not sell any tangible goods in the State.

Karen commented that the continuing decline of North America membership combined with the substantial decline in visitors to the Society's websites is a considerable cause for concern. She suggested that, if the situation is not reversed, the Society is in danger of withering away. In order to reverse this, we have to find a way of being attractive to a younger demographic, who are comfortable with using on-line services and social media. Her conclusion is that we must overcome the lethargy of the current membership and incentivize them to engage with one another through improved DGS online and social media resources. The meeting concurred with Karen's conclusions, but asked the question, how?

The Chairman thanked Karen for her continuing work for and support of the Society, and particularly for her thought-provoking report

12. Irish Secretary's report

Karen D'Alton

The DGS Irish Secretary Karen D'Alton had submitted a report previously circulated. The key points discussed were as follows:

- The Irish membership has remained at 15 and Karen was congratulated on maintaining this albeit small number.

- The DGS Ireland Facebook page has about 260 followers and is becoming more interactive, but Karen thinks it could be improved further with more regular posts.
- In her report Karen provided a list of new web resources to assist with Irish family history research and commended these to DGS members. It was agreed that the details should be published in the next issue of the DGS Journal.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Karen for her continuing work as DGS Irish Secretary.

13. Forthcoming Gatherings and AGMs

The Chairman introduced a discussion about plans for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2019 Gathering

Further to the suggestion at the 2017 AGM that this might be arranged in Richmond, Virginia, Barbara Hoblit had investigated options and made some suggestions. These were discussed but, in the belief that the Spring may be the best time of year to visit Virginia, it was felt that there would not be sufficient time to agree a programme and make all the arrangements. Michael suggested an alternative plan might be to defer Virginia and hold the Fourth Irish DGS Gathering in July 2019. The previous Irish Gatherings (in 2005, 2008 and 2013) have all been very successful. With the benefit of previous experience, he felt it would be possible to put together a Dublin based event without too much difficulty. Historically such events have attracted a worldwide attendance because of the substantial direct interest in Irish Dalton ancestry amongst our members. Michael agreed to pursue this idea with Karen D'Alton.

2020 Gathering

Michael reported that the details of the event for the 400th Anniversary of the sailing of *The Mayflower* taking place on the Welbeck Estate in Nottinghamshire are still awaited. It is hoped that this will form a central part of a celebration based in the East Midlands of the 50th Anniversary of the Society – a very important DGS milestone. Michael is actively progressing this and hopes to be able to announce more details soon.

2021 Gathering

On the assumption that the Ireland Gathering proceeds in 2019, this leaves the option of Richmond, Virginia for 2021, with much more time to plan and organise a flagship event for DGS North America.

14. Any other business

It was suggested that with the changing exchange rate for the euro it would be appropriate to reduce the Society's Irish subscription rate from 18 euros to 15 euros per annum. This was proposed by Howard Dalton, seconded by John Dalton and agreed unanimously.

There was no other business.

15. Close

There being no further business, the meeting was formally closed at 5.30 pm.

DALTON GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Accounts for 2017

Income Account

Income	2016	2017	Expenditure	2016	2017
Subscriptions	£	£		£	£
USA	851.63	598.23	Journal 66 July	238.00	273.00
UK & Eire	620.46	567.58	" 67 Dec	369.00	313.85
Australia	399.85	276.00	Postage July	301.75	262.00
			" Dec	320.88	295.79
	<u>1871.94</u>	<u>1441.81</u>		<u>1229.63</u>	<u>1144.64</u>
			Subscriptions		
Sales	82.70		FFHS	88.92	88.92
Donation	10.00		Clans of Ireland	38.50	45.45
Surplus from Hull 2017	41.80	288.11	Treasurers Expenses	8.00	
			Secretaries Expenses		
			UK	-	5.10
			USA	-	-
			Provision for GDPR		300.00
				<u>1365.05</u>	<u>1584.11</u>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure				526.39	145.81
		<u>1729.92</u>			<u>1729.92</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2016	2017		2016	2017
HSBC Account	2953.59	2551.68	Capital Account as at January 1st	6789.62	7316.01
USA Account	4179.97	4778.20	Surplus	526.39	145.81
Paypal Account	182.45	131.94		<u>7316.01</u>	<u>7461.82</u>
	<u>7316.01</u>	<u>7461.82</u>			