



Annual General Meeting of the Society

Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 21 July 2024 at 2.00 pm

In accordance with Clause 12 of the Society's Constitution, the meeting was held by members attending electronically through Zoom.

Attending:

The Society's President:	Michael Tobias OBE (chairing the meeting)
Chair	Leigh Dworkin
Vice-Chair	Sharon Hintze
Secretary	Jane Segal
Treasurer	Peter Heilbrunn

Members of Council in addition to the four serving Officers:

Lydia Collins, Laurence Harris, Marie-Anne Knight (Membership Secretary),
Anne Marcus, Daniel Morgan-Thomas, Nigel Siederer

Some 43 other members of the Society.

Attendance varied at different parts of the meeting, but a quorum (23, being 5% of the membership) was present at all times.

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and handed over the chairmanship of the meeting to President Michael Tobias OBE.

2. Apologies for Absence

The President opened the formal business of the meeting and welcomed members present.

He asked the Secretary to announce the apologies for absence that had been received. These were from members: Danielle Sanderson, Doreen Berger, Jill Whitehead, David Jacobs, Jessica Feinstein, Eva Laurence, Louise Mason, Rebecca Benstock, Anthony Rosenthal, Susie Fowkes and Derek Stavrou.

3. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting, held on 2 July 2023, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. There were no corrections and so the record was **agreed** unanimously.

4. Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 December 2023

The report and accounts for 2023 had been circulated in advance of the meeting, having been approved by Council (the members of Council being JGSGB's Trustees).

Leigh Dworkin as Chairman presented the Annual Report for the calendar year 2023. He drew attention to the Society's activity as summarised in his introduction to the Report:

- 2023 had been an exciting year for the Society as we rose to the challenges of hosting an International Jewish Genealogy conference in London and also of

relocating our Library from the London Jewish Museum in Camden, to Kent House in Knightsbridge.

- We are affiliated to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and it was a great honour to be selected to be the local co-host of their annual conference. This was the first in-person conference since 2019, due to the pandemic, and the first conference in the UK since 2001. Organising such an event was a great effort for a committee of about 9 in the UK with a similar number from the IAJGS based in the US. We had some 530 attendees, including the organisers and speakers, and great feedback was received from all who gave it. My thanks go to the organising committee, the speakers, all the JGSGB volunteers who helped the conference run smoothly and the JGSGB members who kindly donated funds to offset some of the costs of such an event.
- If history repeats itself, we will co-host the next one in the UK in 22 years in 2045, so I hope that JGSGB members took full advantage of the conference being on our doorstep. If not (or even if so), do feel free to join me and other IAJGS conference devotees in America for the next two summers, with Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2024 and Fort Wayne, Indiana in 2025.
- When we heard that the Jewish Museum, London in Camden Town was to close, we had rapidly to find a new home to house the library. We entered into an agreement with Westminster Synagogue for part of Kent House, Knightsbridge, where the synagogue is housed. My thanks go to Anne Marcus for leading the team who organised the library relocation so smoothly, meaning that there was no need to waste money putting the library into storage and minimising the time that we had to close before quickly reopening to serve our members at the beginning of 2024.
- As usual we had a vibrant programme of events throughout the year, mostly on Zoom, including a virtual Manchester conference, but with workshops, Library sessions and some regional meetings being held in-person. After the terrible events in Israel on October 7th 2023, we are favouring Zoom over in-person meetings, but be assured that we are employing heightened security procedures for any meetings that we do choose to hold in-person. My thanks go to all of our volunteers, especially the Programme Committee and the SIG & RG convenors for organising these meetings, along with our global speakers and attendees for supporting us.

Peter Heilbrunn as Treasurer then presented a financial overview for the calendar year 2023, whose main features were the following:

- The society supported the IAJGS London Conference. Sales made at the conference amounted to £352 while expenditure for T-shirts and sashes amounted to £552.
- With the closure of JML, we were forced to move. We decided on Westminster Synagogue, Kent House, Knightsbridge. The move cost £2015.

- The extended closure of JML allowed the Society a rent-free period hence the lower rental costs of £1043.
- The increase in interest rates allowed the Society to take advantage of fixed-term deposits. Interest earned in the year amounted to £1047.
- There being no suitable recipient, payment of the £1000 Hyman prize was deferred to the following year.
- Membership fees have held up well and the small shortfall of £306 is due to timing issues.
- In terms of Income surplus for unrestricted funds, the year came in at £3,568, £7,508 ahead of Budget. Against 2022, we recorded a fall in Income surplus of £1386. Together with this year's surplus, our total unrestricted funds are £89,292.
- The David Hyman bequest stands at £8,000. No payment was made in 2023.

Peter also presented an historical overview for the last 20 years which shows that we have been maintaining a surplus since 2013.

The report and accounts having been previously approved by Council as JGSGB's trustees, there was no need for further discussion on this item.

5. Amendments to the Constitution

Jane Segal as Secretary introduced the following minor change to the Constitution:

- PURPOSE: To correct errors in numbers of council members following the creation of Vice-Chair post.
 - In clause 20.3.b, to change two to one and ten to nine;

The change was **approved** by the General Meeting (by a majority show of hands).

6. Election of Officers and Council

Officers

Nominations having closed at the beginning of the meeting, the President announced, and the Secretary was able to confirm, the nominations which had been received (with the single proposer required by the Constitution):

<u>Post</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>
Chair	Leigh Dworkin	Sharon Hintze
Vice-Chair	Sharon Hintze	Peter Heilbrunn
Secretary	Jane Segal	Sharon Hintze
Treasurer	Peter Heilbrunn	Sharon Hintze

As there was a single nominee for each of the Officer posts, the President declared that the above nominees were elected to serve until the conclusion of the AGM in 2025:

Other Council members

The nominations received for Council members to fill the other vacancies on Council were as follows:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>
Anthony Rosenthal	Andy Lister
Jill Whitehead	Leigh Dworkin
Lydia Collins	Anne Marcus
David Mendoza	Leigh Dworkin

As the nominations for other Council members did not exceed the number of vacancies, the President declared that the above four members were elected as members of the Society's Council, to serve until the end of the second annual general meeting following the present one.

Continuing Council members

The following members, elected to Council at the AGM in 2023, would continue to serve until the end of the AGM in 2025:

Jessica Feinstein
Laurence Harris
Marie-Anne Knight
Anne Marcus
Nigel Siederer

7. Votes of thanks

Leigh Dworkin proposed the Society should express its thanks to Daniel Morgan-Thomas who is standing down after many years serving on Council. He also welcomed David Mendoza, newly elected to Council.

The meeting endorsed these proposals.

8. Emeritus President

The President announced that following the death in February of Dr Anthony Joseph, the previous Society President, David Jacobs has been appointed to this post.

David Jacobs was born, raised and educated in Manchester. His interest in genealogy was aroused in 1971 when it was suggested to him that on his return from America he interview his four grandparents. He has never looked back!

In 1983 he was the founder of the Museum of the Jewish East End under whose auspices the Family History Workshops began. In 1992 he was at the inaugural meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. In 2015 he was a Fellow at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.

David has talked extensively in Britain, Israel and America about his researches and is honoured to be the President Emeritus of the Society.

9. Awards and prizes

The Ronny Brickman Award for the most interesting article written by a member in Shemot during 2023 was presented to Derek Stavrou for 'The House on Dekerta Street: tracing family history in Poland.'

10. Admissions to the JGSGB Roll of Honour

The President announced that the following were being admitted to the JGSGB Roll of Honour:

- Hazel Atlass in recognition of her activities organising Member events and her work on the Programme Committee over many years, Chairmanship of the Chilterns Regional Group, outstanding service as former Membership Secretary and Member of Council, and as an outreach speaker for the Society.
- Michael Kaye in recognition of his outstanding service as Webmaster for our Society, including the provision of invaluable technology advice and support, over many years.

There being no other annual general meeting business, the President closed the formal business of the meeting at 2.35 pm.

The Chair thanked the President for chairing the meeting.

Signed as a correct record



Chair