

Scottish Records Association

Annual Report of the Council for 2018-2019

Council met four times during the year and thanks are once again due to the National Records of Scotland for the use of their facilities at General Register House, Edinburgh. At the Forty-first Annual General Meeting of the Association held on 17 November 2018, the Newsletter Editor, Mrs Alison Diamond, stood down from Council after 13 years in office. We are extremely grateful to Alison for her invaluable contribution to the work of the Association. Mr Keith Adam, Lady Hopetoun, Mrs Ingrid Thomson, Mr Robin Urquhart and Miss Sophie Volker also retired from Council on completing their terms of office as Ordinary Members and Ms Ishbel MacKinnon, Mrs Elizabeth Roads and Ms Veronica Schreuder were elected to replace them. On 22 January 2019, Council co-opted Ms Tracy Smith to the vacant office of Newsletter Editor and also co-opted Lady Coulsfield as an Ordinary Member of Council. Dr Kirsteen Mulhern resigned as Membership Secretary on 17 May 2019 and Council co-opted Mrs Elizabeth Roads to succeed her. Dr Iain Hutchison was co-opted as an Ordinary Member of Council on 24 June 2019. Dr Amy Blakeway, Ms Pam McNicol and Dr Jan Merchant will all retire from Council on completing their terms of office as Ordinary Members in November 2019. The Treasurer, Ms Jo Dixon, has also indicated her intention to step down in November 2019.

Membership

Membership of the Association currently stands at 149. This comprises 97 full individual members; 7 honorary individual members; 5 student/unwaged individual members; 7 reduced (no journal) members; and 33 full institutional members. This represents a significant decrease on the total membership figure for 2017-2018 (204). There are 16 individual members from 2016-2017 and 16 institutional members from the same year who are still unpaid for 2017-2018. Following approaches several individual members have now paid for the latter year and a further reminder will be sent with the call for subscriptions for 2018-2019. Institutional members comprise a complicated group with payment being made for several through agents who do not seem able to identify the individual institutions for whom they are paying. Approaches will be made to these organisations seeking clarification.

Finance

The Association ended the financial year with £3,121.68 in the current account and £5,339.50 in the savings account and made a small profit of £514.04, which is slightly down on last year's profit of £711.55. The Association is now up to date with Gift Aid repayments from HMRC, having received the sum of £307.58 for the year 2017-2018 and £334.59 for the year 2018-2019. The annual Gift Aid claim, submitted in April, allows the Association to reclaim 0.25p in every £1, which represents a real boost to its finances.

Once again, the Association's biggest expenditure was on publications: £4,528.76. This included the production of *Scottish Archives*, *Retour* and palaeography packs. This figure also covers payment to a designer to carry out re-branding work for the Association. This included designing a new logo and

refreshing the Association's publicity leaflet. The total spent on these two pieces of work was £500 and the new logo is now in use.

Conference

This year's Annual Conference, entitled 'Hence the Name: Sources for place-name and personal name research in Scotland,' was organised in conjunction with the Scottish Place-Name Society and took place at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh on 17 November 2018. A near-capacity audience of 89 delegates enjoyed eight fascinating presentations, several of which will appear as articles in *Scottish Archives* volume 25. We are grateful to everyone who helped to organise the conference, particularly Robin Urquhart and Carole Hough; to the speakers and chairmen for their excellent contributions, and to the staff of the Scottish Storytelling Centre for their assistance on the day.

Visits

Visits to three different archive repositories were again arranged for members of the Association during the summer months. On 14 June, nine members and guests spent the morning exploring the Trades House of Glasgow Library and Archives, where they enjoyed a guided tour of the historic Trades Hall building, led by the Honorary Archivist, Craig Bryce; a talk on the history and development of the Library collection from the Honorary Librarian, Carol Parry, and an opportunity to browse some highlights from the collections. The afternoon was spent at the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive in the Kelvin Hall, where the group received an introductory talk and a tour of the facilities from the Acquisitions Curator, Kay Foubister. On 6 September, 12 members and guests visited Glamis Castle Archives, where the Archivist, Ingrid Thomson, showed the group some of the Archives' store rooms and displayed a rich variety of records from the collection. Following lunch in the Castle tea room, the group were shown around the Castle by tour guide Chris Currie, and ended the afternoon with some free time to explore the grounds. Council is grateful to Carol Parry and Craig Bryce of the Trades House of Glasgow Library and Archives, Kay Foubister of the NLS Moving Image Archive, and Ingrid Thomson and Chris Currie of Glamis Castle for hosting this year's Summer Visits and for giving so generously of their time, expertise and enthusiasm.

Publications

During 2018-2019, the Association's website (www.scottishrecordsassociation.org) was viewed 5,126 times, which is an increase on the 2017-2018 figure of 4,604 visits. Like last year, most visitors accessed the site from within the UK and the USA, but there was also some interest from Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The website has run smoothly throughout the year and experienced only one minor issue which was rapidly addressed by the technical support team. Issues 30 and 31 of *Retour*, the Association's newsletter, appeared in autumn 2018 and spring 2019. *Scottish Archives* volume 23 was published and distributed to members in February 2019. Volume 24 is expected shortly.

Representation on and to outside bodies

The Association continues to represent the interests of its members in the care and custody of records as an Organisational Member of the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA).