

OLDHAM & DISTRICT BRANCH
COMMITTEE OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR ANNUAL MEETING
13th APRIL 2024

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I am happy to report that the Oldham Branch continues to attract a good audience on Zoom. However, the number of people attending meetings in person seems to be declining. Due to the hire fee for the room at the Library being halved as we supplied evidence we are a charity, and Linda Richardson, no longer being able to bring it, we decided to pay the Library to supply tea, coffee and biscuits for our in person meetings, which now includes alternative milk for vegans/vegetarians.

The Exhibition to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Society, held on Wednesday 13th March attracted some people but not as many as the Family History Fair last year. The Oldham website continues to expand with several interesting articles being added over the last year.

There was no meeting in December and the January and February meetings were Zoom only meetings, because of the possibility of bad weather conditions. The hybrid meeting programmed for March was cancelled in the room, and only held on zoom, as the weather conditions in Oldham were very poor with thick ice.

We were sad to lose Linda Richardson as Chairperson last September, who did a fabulous job, due to her move to Shropshire but she continues to be a 'country' member. This meant that Jan Costa, Branch Secretary, and I (Gill Melton) as Treasurer have had to share the job between us for the last 6 months. Unfortunately, we have had no-one come forward to take on this role and, consequently, Jan and I have again agreed to share it for the next 12 months. A vote of thanks goes to Linda from the Oldham Committee and the Society in general for her work since she became Chair.

We have also had to increase non-members fees to £5 from £3 from April 2024 due to a decision made at the Executive Committee of the Society at which we have a presence. However, meetings attended on zoom remain free to everyone.

Gill Melton & Jan Costa
Joint Chairpersons

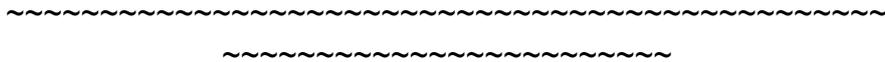
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SECRETARY'S REPORT

I joined the committee at last year's AGM and after a handover period took the secretary role from the retiring secretary Joan Harrison who remains a committee member. Following her excellent work with the 2022-2023 programme of talks and with support and agreement of the other committee members I have been able to organise the programme for 2023-2024.

Having been on other committees I can tell you how supported I have been as I found my feet and I encourage anyone with an interest in family history and keeping this branch going to volunteer alongside us. You will be welcome.

Jan Costa
Branch Secretary



BRANCH WEBSITE PAGES

There is a steady stream of on-going additions to the website pages which are listed in the Society's Quarterly Journal, in the Oldham & District Branch monthly, digital newsletter, and on the website 'What's New' page. These include articles, transcriptions, pictures, videos, projects and more.



E-OWLS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Our monthly digital newsletter is free to both members and non-members and has around 30-36 pages, in .pdf format, to read online or download. Within those pages are details of all Society Meetings and Events, local news, transcriptions, articles from readers, a gallery of images and an e-postbag for contributions or questions from our readers.

If you feel you have a project to pursue for the website, a story to tell, pictures to share, or a question to ask, then please contact me through either the Branch website email address or through the newsletter email address. Both of which can be found on the 'Contact Us' Branch website page, in the Journal and in the Newsletter.



ZOOM & HYBRID MEETINGS

Our 2024 programme of meetings reflects our commitment to offering as many meetings as possible to interested people, wherever they are.

The zoom element of our monthly meetings, continues to attract an encouraging number of attendees, whether the meeting is only on zoom or part of a hybrid meeting. Hybrid meetings, on zoom and in the library, allow us to welcome people from greater distances, both here in the UK and also from overseas, as well as an in-person audience in the Library. Zoom only meetings give us the opportunity to invite speakers from a greater distance who wouldn't otherwise be able to join us.

Sheila Goodyear
Zoom Host, Website and Newsletter Editor