

2019 Annual Report

Overview

Our focus this year has been to promote activities that will ensure our ongoing viability as a society. In order to do this we have developed a strategic plan that aims to

- Retain and grow membership,
- Bolster volunteers,
- Improve computer resources, and
- Improve internal and external communication.

The following report updates progress on these strategies. It should be noted that our success or otherwise with this plan depends entirely on the support of dedicated staff and our many volunteers. Without their ongoing assistance, giving us their valuable time and expertise to convene and manage our various teams, circles and groups, we could not provide the range of activities and programs for our members outlined in this report. We are very grateful for their commitment to the society.

Membership

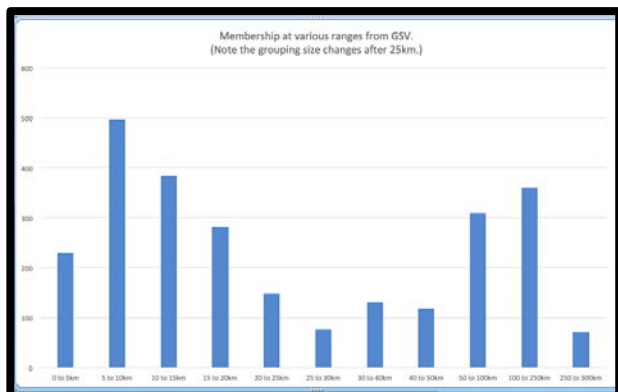
The Membership Team has worked hard to retain and support our members as well as attract new members. As with other comparable volunteer-run societies we continue to be impacted by declining membership numbers. However as reported in the annual financial report (published on our website), the rate of decline was substantially reduced in 2018/2019.

We reviewed attendance at the GSV Centre, looking at member visits and volunteer support. This resulted in a slight change in Library opening hours. Monday is no longer open for library services, but Tuesday's hours have been extended, maximising opportunities for members to stay later and CBD workers' to attend. To date late opening has not been very successful. The possibility of increasing numbers by offering targeted education presentations on a Tuesday evening is being considered.

Retaining our members is an ongoing concern. Reasons given by members for not renewing include aging issues, unwillingness to come into the city and deciding that their family history research is complete.

In order to plan our membership recruitment strategies we need to understand the demographics of our current membership. We have analysed the age-range of our current membership and the distance they need to travel to come into the Centre. The analysis showed that the largest group (43%) of our members are females in their 60's or 70's. This is about the general retirement age and

undoubtedly reflects the fact that family history research is very time consuming, with most working-age people unable to find this time. The age pattern is similar for males (25% of our members are males in their 60's or 70's).



The figure above shows the distance members need to travel to come into the Centre. Most of our urban members live within 5-25km of the GSV while most rural members live 50-250km away. Both urban and rural members indicate that they would like more access to digital records from home.

Email communications sent to members as part of our Member Support Plan have been updated, including the President's letter that has been very well received. Members receive an email checking on their progress about six months before membership renewal. This has resulted in a number of member queries being answered by the Membership group. A number of very thoughtful and helpful communications from members have also been received which we really appreciate. We continue to encourage feedback from all members.

Volunteers

The Society simply could not function without our wonderful volunteers. They are involved in every aspect of life at GSV. The number of registered volunteers is now 184, about the same as last year. While a few have moved on, 15 new volunteers have arrived.

Every aspect of our activities at the GSV depends upon volunteers regularly giving us their valuable time and expertise. We are very grateful for their commitment to the society. In particular we would like to thank those volunteers who have increased their duties and hours this year.

Quarterly training sessions were held for all volunteers. This included our library research assistants (RA's) in the library and those involved in various digitisation and scanning projects at the GSV centre or from home. These sessions were offered on alternative days each quarter to enable volunteers with other commitments to attend. All volunteers received a copy of the notes produced whether or not they attended the session.

Following a review of past training sessions we introduced a number of changes that included offering all volunteers digital skills training, inviting volunteers to submit questions for the Q&A sessions and asking for suggested topics for future training sessions. Overall there was an improvement in terms of numbers attending, in submitting questions and in suggesting future topics.

In order to help volunteers keep up to date procedure manuals and other guidance material, both electronic and hard copy, were updated and position descriptions for RA's were made available. A series of articles in *Ancestor* was commenced highlighting the contributions of both new and long-standing volunteers.

The registered number of volunteers- is now over 200 including 15 new volunteers this year.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded this year to XX (NAMES)

Additional volunteers for all of our activities are always most welcome. Please contact the office during weekday business hours to indicate your interest.

Computer Resources and IT Systems

For IT this has been an interesting year with a lot happening!

All our computers were replaced throughout the year. The venerable HP desktops, all over 10 years of age, were replaced by much smaller yet far more powerful models with bigger screens, cordless mice and keyboards, and wireless connection to the file server and Internet. This allowed the new menu system to be developed by volunteer Cecil Clark.

The capacity of our wireless network has been increased allowing nearly all of our computers to be connected. In addition, visiting members can now wirelessly connect their laptops, tablets and phones.

Support for the website/membership system has been outsourced to a third party who specialises in that software and application. Whilst this has increased our costs, our website availability has been improved and we are not now reliant on one or two people to maintain it. With the help of this company and a GSV member, Tom O'Dea, the blog has been incorporated into our website allowing members to sign in once rather than twice. Development of a forum on the website is also well advanced.

Late last year there was a catastrophic hardware failure in the device used to store all our catalogue files. Whilst the storage device was configured with a replacement drive on standby (a hot spare), it could not withstand two concurrent failures. Fortunately, the device was replaced under warranty but it took a few weeks for the new hardware to be received. Retired hardware was resurrected allowing access to our data, reinstating the catalogue. We now have two duplicate

devices that can withstand two drive failures each. This allows us to switch over with minimal loss of access. We now store some 5 Terra Bytes (5TB) of data and growing. Unfortunately cloud storage of this quantity of data is still very expensive.

The GSV is able to keep IT costs down by taking advantage of discounts available to not-for-profit organisations. As a result, Microsoft licences for Windows 10 cost under \$20, and Gmail provide us at no cost with a business email system featuring unlimited email addresses using our own domain name. Gmail is saving us approximately \$2,500 a year and providing a better and more useful service.

The team of Peter Johnston, supported by Cecil Clark, Tom O’Dea, Rod Van Cooten, Henry Corcoran and Claire Johnson should be thanked for their hard work throughout the year in the multitude of tasks undertaken to not only maintain the IT system but to respond at any time to system and other failures. The improved IT experience we can now offer our members is due to their much appreciated patience, expertise and dedication.

Communications

The Digital Media and Communications team has been involved in an increased number of activities this year reflecting our move towards becoming a “digital Society”. Editors for the various Social Media sites (Website - Meg Bate; Facebook and Twitter - Janne Bonnett; Blog - Bill Barlow; and GSV Writers Closed Facebook - Jenny Scammell) contribute much time and effort supporting this move.

Web development

The revised top menu structure of the website and content of 'About Us' including bios of our staff, has been substantially achieved. Content of other pages is still being prepared as resources allow.

Support social media communications

Forty-six posts to the GSV blog 'Family History Matters' were published in the year and were sent to all members with email, to our Facebook page and to others. Our Facebook site featured posts of interest every week in the year and has built a large following. The migration of the Blog to the Drupal system has been achieved to overcome problems that emerged with notifications to members and to simplify link with membership data.

Considerable work has been involved with our consultants in solving problems and smoothing the user interface of our website and related social media.

Regular emails from President to members have been achieved by the use of the Blog category 'From the Keyboard of the President'. There have been four posts - one in August 2018, and then

with our current President in January, April and August 2019. These have supplemented the quarterly President' *Ancestor* column.

The team works with Education and Membership to regularly promote events using the GSV Facebook page and the blog 'Family History Matters'. These social media promotions are very successful and often result in a rush of bookings for activities and events.

Council

At the Annual General Meeting, held in October 2018 retiring President, David Down, was thanked for his contributions to the work of Council over the last three years, in particular his leadership during the move to our Queen Street premises.

Janne Bonnett, Erna Cameron, David Down and Robert Gribben were elected to Council for two-year terms, while Simon Foster was elected for a one-year term. Stephen Hawke was elected Treasurer. Penny Wolf (two-year term) and Peter Johnston (one year term) were elected to Vice President positions. Jenny Redman was elected President.

The Council continues to review and update the Strategic Plan annually with an emphasis on growing membership and developing resources and activities that appeal to members.

Administration and Staffing

The Society extends its thanks to our staff members for their diligence and commitment. Their hard work and experience ensures that our administration and library services function smoothly and efficiently. The librarians also work many hours as volunteers both at the centre and from home and play a significant role in training new volunteers.

Finances

The Society's audited financial report for the 2018/2019 financial year has been published in a separate document which may be found on our website. The financial statements record a profit of \$31,185 for the Society for the year ended 30 June 2019.

The profit was boosted by the generous and much appreciated bequest of \$85,545 from the Estate of Roger Heslop. As explained in Note 12 of the financial report, \$50,000 of the bequest has been applied to establishing the GSV Family History Research & Education Fund (refer to the Note for further details).

The Society's underlying operating result, excluding the bequest and establishment of the Fund, was a loss of \$4,360. This small loss largely resulted from the increase in premises lease costs, the significant expenditure on new computers and upgrades to IT infrastructure and the cost of ongoing projects to improve systems (the library catalogue in particular). The Society continues to be impacted by declining membership numbers, but the rate of decline was substantially reduced in 2018/2019.

Library and Research

To support our membership, a huge amount of work has gone into making our digital resources easily available at the Centre and at home. Scanning, indexing and cataloguing of documents are proceeding. Approximately 90% of scanning is complete. Indexing of digitised documents including cards is approximately 50% completed. Indexing of journals is an ongoing task and we need more indexers to help with this task (especially E-journals). Many indexing and scanning tasks can be done by volunteers at home and we are very grateful to those undertaking this essential work in this way.

Cataloguing is proceeding slowly and again more volunteers would be welcome to assist with this task. The Catalogue upgrade to Presto, a more user-friendly system, is proceeding slowly. It will hopefully be launched by end of the 2019.

Research queries have been down this year. Please remember you can utilize your free 'Quick look-up' service where a member of our team looks up a nominated record. Distant members (outside 100km from Melbourne) are reminded that you have one free annual request. More complex research requests are also available for members and non-members at very reasonable rates. Details are on our website.

Education

The Society has continued to deliver a range of education programs relevant to members' needs. The Education team seeks to expand offerings where possible and members are encouraged to volunteer as presenters or convenors to meet the increased demand.

The DNA and Family History program has expanded this year. There are now six modules on offer to assist people at their particular stage of genetic genealogy. To further support members using DNA as a tool for their family history research, we also offer monthly hands-on tutorials that extend the material presented in the six modules and a DNA Genetic Genealogy Study Group, a self-help group for members with more advanced DNA analysis skills. Finally a number of education videos have been purchased for DNA-related presentations throughout the year.

Collaboration with other organisations has continued. These include the Immigration Museum, Chinese-Australian Association, and the RHSV. The society participated in the Melbourne Tartan Festival, Rare Book Week, the Seniors Festival and National Family History Month.

Throughout the year presenters from the GSV have spoken at a number of family history sessions organised by educational groups like local library services, local family history societies and heritage groups.

Overall the education programme offers a variety of topics in a variety of formats, such as Discussion Circles, videos, speakers and tutorials, courses and seminars. There has been a balance of paid and free events for members.

Discussion Circles

Our Discussion Circles provide a very popular informal venue for members to meet and discuss common interests and to obtain assistance resolving roadblocks in their family history research. In addition Circles are a bonus for our remote and/or less mobile members who still want to engage with and learn from other members. Many Circle convenors provide emailed copies of the meeting presentations and notes to their members who are unable to attend in person. We would like to thank the convenors of all the Discussion Circles who contribute their time and effort organising and running these meetings.

Dates and details of the all Discussion Circle meetings are notified in *Ancestor* and posted on the GSV website and the Blog.

Discussion Circles are open to all GSV members. Bookings should be made by contacting the GSV administration.

Victorian and Tasmanian Discussion Circle was formed in June 2019 to 'discuss and further our research, broadening our understanding of our ancestors in these two states'.

There has been plenty of interest in the new group with over 20 participants at the first meeting in June 2019. The group meets regularly on the last Friday morning of the month. Currently there are 50 members on the mailing list and an active private Facebook group.

So far each meeting has focussed on a particular region of either state each month. One or two Circle members presented their research concerning an ancestor who had connections with that region. This was followed by opening the floor to a general discussion of the region or topic selected for that month.

Topics covered so far have been wide-ranging, from 'Did they Swim- How did your ancestor arrive in Victoria or Tasmania', to 'Gold Fever- Were your ancestors at the Gold Rush', to our most recent one, 'Marvellous Melbourne- Boom Time 1880-1890's'.

All GSV members are welcome as participants and/or presenters. Suggestions for guest speakers and topics of interest are warmly invited.

Counties of Northern England Discussion Circle (CONE)

The Counties of Northern England (CONE) Discussion Circle expanded its remit this year with the inclusion of the County of Lancashire to the group of counties that are discussed. Members now consider matters relating to all counties from Lancashire and Yorkshire north to the border with Scotland. The Circle is open to any member of the GSV and all are welcome.

The principal focus of the Circle is to assist members to research the lives of their ancestors through discussing and examining the family history sources and resources that are available and mutually aiding members to negotiate brick walls that they may have encountered.

Discussions this year have ranged across political, economic and social matters that influenced the lives of our ancestors. For example, the impact of transportation methods such as the canals and railways on the lives of our ancestors has been discussed as has the ship building, coal mining and other industries that boomed in the north of England during the industrial revolution and subsequently. The development and growth of the public health systems necessary to service the rapidly increasing population were also explored.

Dates and details of the CONE meetings are notified in *Ancestor* and posted on the GSV website and the Blog.

DNA Discussion Circle

Our sessions open with members reporting any new results and/or any newsworthy items, followed by questions from members.

At the end of the session suggestions are sought from the group for topics for future meetings.

Some of the topics dealt with in the past 12 months were:

- Mitochondria DNA, using the full sequence results HVR values
- FTDNA Family Finder [autosomal] matches and Mitochondrial project groups.
- Examining Geno 2.0 test results
- A refresher on the three DNA tests available
- Applications of DNA research - the Saxon invasion of Britain, Yamnaya DNA and culture migration into Europe

- Geni.com and My Heritage sites
- Using DNA with other DNA in your family history research – a presentation about the Convenor's family in the 1660's
- Gedmatch - experiences of members

Early English Discussion Circle

The monthly meetings of the Early English Discussion Circle (which is now in its eleventh year) are designed to help members with their pre-1700 English research. There is a real incentive for researching back to this period as many new records (which don't exist after 1700) then become available.

A specific topic is selected for the meetings, varying from discussions on certain pre-1700 records to aspects of how our ancestors lived their lives pre-1700. Last year such topics included land occupancy and records, medieval records, religious history pre-1700, pre-1700 farms villages and towns, why people moved in England pre-1700.

At each meeting members are welcome to present on their research and seek input from fellow members. The Circle has developed its own electronic database of websites, books and other relevant sources to assist members.

New members are always welcome, and a number joined during the past year.

London Discussion Circle

The London Discussion Circle began in March 2018 and now has 76 members although not all attend every meeting particularly during winter when so many seem to be in London furthering their research! Meetings are varied and have included presentations from some excellent speakers as well as discussion of the latest articles and resources and attempts at problem solving of members' research challenges.

Presentation topics for this year have included: London Repositories, Churches, Cemeteries, Probate, Workhouses, Freeman and Apprentices, Clandestine Marriages, and Bankruptcy & Debtors Prisons. Many other topics have been discussed as they are raised during the meetings and notes are circulated by email after the meeting if any are available.

All GSV members are most welcome to attend the 1-hour monthly meetings even if they don't have specific London interests.

South West England Research and Discussion (SWERD)

Over the last 12 months SWERD has focussed on members presenting their own research into their south-west England ancestors, highlighting the resources they have used and encouraging other members to dig deeper into chasing those elusive ancestors and finding the stories of their lives and times. Our meetings have included discussion on machine-breakers in Dorset, stonemasons, watchmakers and Anglican clergy across the southwest, a family of tailors in Devon and research into a much-maligned Cornish family. We also had many members reading *The Married Widows of Cornwall* and comparing the book's historical analysis to their own family research into the wives and families 'left behind' when men left to find work or new lives overseas.

Many members on the SWERD email list (particularly our members from regional areas) have expressed appreciation for the emailed copies of the meeting presentations and notes, keeping them in the loop when they are unable to attend.

British India Discussion Circle

Meetings for this group are now held each quarter; the first in February. Unfortunately, numbers attending has decreased. Topics have included the usefulness of the FIBIS guides for researching both military and marine ancestors and a recorded talk by Sylvia Murphy on the "The non-official community in India.

Our August meeting was rewarding for Laurette McWhirter, the only attendee. We took the opportunity to concentrate on her longstanding brick wall; to unearth details of a journey undertaken in 1857 by two young boys being escorted back to England. A family document written twenty years later had confirmed their arrival but without giving details, especially the name of the ship on which they travelled. By utilising information available on three websites: FIBIS, National Library of Australia and British Library Newspaper Archives Laurette was delighted that we could confirm the boys definite date of arrival in the UK.

For our final meeting in November we will look at new resources available online, followed by questions from members and suggestions for topics they would like to discuss in 2020.

Writers Discussion Circle

The group meets monthly except for January with attendances of 20-30. More than 90 members are on the email contact list and 49 on the closed Facebook group.

In 2019 the group will consider and comment on nine short pieces of family history writing submitted by its members, as well as a general writing exercise by the whole group. Discussions over the year will cover the following topics:

- Deciding on a point of view

- Developing characters
- We don't all want to publish a book!
- The use of images in articles and in books

Members of the group continue to support the publication of *Ancestor*, including creating regular 'Getting It Write articles', writing book reviews and serving on the editorial team.

The group would not survive without the contribution of the members who facilitate meetings, convert discussion topics into articles for *Ancestor* and share advice and useful information at meetings and through the email list and Facebook group.

Special Interest Groups

Scottish Ancestry Group (SAG)

The Scottish Ancestry Group now in its 29th year experienced another successful year attracting new members and continuing to maintain its membership at 200+. It remains in a sound financial position enabling us to retain the annual fee at \$11.00.

We had a productive year with the SAG Education Program, which included well-attended talks at the Quarterly meetings on a range of presenters and topics namely:

- Joy Roy – 'Ordinary Lives – Scottish History
- Malcolm G. Horsburgh "Teinds and their role in Scottish society"
- A session on "More Scottish Internet Resources" comprising six 15 minute segments by John Blackwood; 1939 Registers; GRO Indexes; Malcolm Horsburgh National Library of Scotland Digital records; Communion Roles 1830-1840, and Miscellaneous Court records; Joy Roy A Better Approach to Searching of Find My Past: and Ancestry.com
- Guest speaker Dr Jenny Bars on "*Archives and Ancestors: Using the resources of the United Church Archives for family history research*"

We have continued to offer two Beginner's Workshops in March and September for new members and 'old' ones stuck in their research.

The highlight for the year was our Biennial Seminar held on the 13th July at the RACV City Club in Bourke Street Melbourne entitled:

"Scotland 1730 to 1830-during the Enlightenment".

The seminar was a joint initiative between the Scottish Ancestry Group and the RACV City Club and the Melbourne Tartan Festival. It attracted 75 participants consisting of City Club members many new to Scottish Family History, current GSV and Scottish Ancestry Group members. We also acquired new members to the Society and the Scottish Group.

The SAG newsletter 'Thistle' is published quarterly with a distribution of 270 copies, which includes both hard copies by mail and electronically. Several GSV Member Societies receive a complimentary copy of Thistle in exchange for their newsletter. It is well received by our members judging from the positive feedback we receive.

We continue to purchase Scottish Resources for the GSV library collection when requested. Planning for our Education Program for 2020 is in progress.

Margaret
Chairperson

Irish Ancestry Group (IAG)

The IAG continues to do well, with membership staying steady. We print 340 copies of *Blarney* each quarter, some of which go to reciprocal groups and honorary members, some to overseas recipients. This is an excellent membership for a group such as ours. The feedback from *Blarney* readers is positive. We have a healthy financial status, and funds are always available to supply suitable Irish resources to the GSV Library. This year we have updated some of the most used book resources.

This year we welcomed two new committee members, Jill Dawson and Janet Walmsley, It is great to have their help.

We have had excellent speakers at our quarterly meetings, which are always well attended. Maureen Doyle and Beryl O'Gorman continue to travel to various city and country venues as speakers on Irish topics.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and we look forward to another successful year.

Beryl O'Gorman
Chairperson

International Settlers Group (ISG)

This year has been a challenging year for the ISG. We have tried to introduce more social interaction for our members, which has met with some success. Attendance at our Saturday General meetings appears to be hindered by the locked building and lack of air conditioning, and the Committee will be looking at ways to boost numbers. The February "Problem Solving Workshop" was once again held in the Theatre of the Immigration Museum. As of April, our membership stood at 184, which is less than last year.

We have held four well-attended meetings during the year, with a variety of Guest Speakers. Topics and presenters for the year were

- Carole Czermak - "Truth Records - Philatelic Genealogy, Government and Private Records, Global Records, Immigration Records, True Data and Fake Data"
- Michael Rumpff - "German Research"
- Our annual - "Problem-Solving Workshop"
- Marie-Thérèse Jensen - "Reasons for emigration to Australia 1851 to 1901"

Our ISG Newsletter is published four times a year and is mailed to all members of the ISG and we continue to share journals with groups across Victoria, interstate, and overseas. This is an excellent newsletter, produced and edited by Chris Elmore. He has worked hard this year to involve more of our members and therefore relate to their interests. It could be said that this Newsletter alone more than covers the (small - \$11) cost of membership in providing value to our members.

Talks by members of the ISG were held at several member Societies during the year and we attended the VAFFHO Conference in Hamilton. In August we provided a Roadshow at the Australian Society of Polish Jews Genealogy Open Day.

This year, we chose to relocate our Annual Lunch, which was held at the Mitre Tavern, in Bank Place, just behind the GSV, on October 19th. Reports indicate it was successful, if not a little noisy and crowded.

We continue to concentrate on obtaining books, CDs, maps, atlases and gazetteers relevant to non-British research for the Library.

Michael Rumpff
Chairperson

Member Societies

On Saturday May 25th, the Genealogical Society played host to our Member Societies with our Annual Meeting at the GSV in Queen Street. Over 20 Societies attended, and Penny Wolf, Vice-President, represented our President who was an apology.

We had two key areas to discuss this year - the first was our Discussion Circles. Four convenors were asked to present a snapshot of their Circle, and the challenge was presented to the Member Societies – how might they take advantage of these circles, how might we take the Circles to those Member Societies, or how might they adapt and create their own Discussion Circle? Suggestions ranged from Skype contact through to bus tours.

The second item was the contentious issue of the changes to the BDM website. Susie Zada provided an excellent in-depth solution to the issues. She has organised one-on-one meetings with BDM and communicates them via the VAFHO blog.

The afternoon session was spent reviewing individual reports from the Member Societies.

The Meeting proved to be valuable once again, with social activity, and good information exchange. Next year's meeting will be on Saturday May 23rd 2020

Cooperation

The Society continued to participate in a number of genealogical user groups including the State Library of Victoria Family History User Group, the Joint Victorian Archives Consultative Forum, and the Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages Core System Replacement Project.

The Society also continued to participate as a member of the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO) and the Australasian Federation of Family History Organizations (AFFHO) and the Federation of Family History Societies (UK).

Our collaborations are important for our members and are also a way to attract new members. We are actively engaged with the Immigration Museum (part of Museums Victoria) and conducted joint events during Seniors Week in October 2018.

We continue to have a close relationship with both the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Cornish Association of Victoria.

Ancestor Journal

The *Ancestor* Editorial Team consists of Bill Barlow, Sue Blackwood, Barbara Beaumont, Leonie Loveday, Martin Playne, Margaret Vines, Jeanette Wickham and Tina Hocking, who joined the team this year. The skill and patience of Jeanette Wickham with the layout are invaluable. Leonie Loveday is our liaison with Council. Each team member has responsibility for a particular section of the magazine and editing work is conducted at home. The team meets for discussion and proofreading at least twice per issue.

The format for the four issues produced in the last year remains to a large extent unchanged. A new regular feature, 'DNA News and Notes' has been added. To ensure that surnames in articles are searchable, they are now listed at the end of each article. The series on the resources of different states and territories has included Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria. With the help of John

Blackwood and Erna Cameron, we have tightened up our proofreading process to try to eliminate errors, particularly relating to events.

The 2018 GSV Writing Prize was awarded to Helen Pearce for her article *Daniel Elphinstone: his son's secret exposed* which was published in the December 2018 edition of *Ancestor*. We thank Ancestry for their continuing sponsorship.

In consultation with Council, we have made some changes to the annual GSV Writing Prize for 2019. Eligibility has been extended to members of our member societies, and this year a guest judge and a President's nominee are joining three members of the Ancestor Editorial Team on the judging panel. Ancestry has kindly agreed to continue sponsoring the prize and has enhanced it to include a DNA test as well as a one-year worldwide subscription.

Conclusion

The Council would like to thank all our volunteers and staff for the generous contribution of their time, expertise and experience.

We would also like to thank all members for their ongoing support and look forward to the continuation of that support to ensure a viable Society in the future.

We encourage you to attend our activities and to use our library and online resources. Your feedback is always welcome. The more members who actively participate in the Society the stronger we will be.