

**Minutes of the East FHS
Annual General Meeting
Bishopshalt School, Royal Lane, Hillingdon UB8 3RF
18/10/2025**

1. Apologies for absence

Peter East, Ros Hipkin, Jane Rimmington, Jane Hepworth, Chris Bockett, Edna Knight, Margaret & Tim East.

2. Minutes of AGM 2024

The 2024 minutes can be found in the Spring 25 edition of Points East with an addendum and corrections in the Autumn 25 edition. The minutes (with the corrections) were accepted as a reflection of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Chairman's report: Angela East

See Website Members Area 'AGM 2025'.

5. Treasurer's report: Dr John East

See Website Members Area 'AGM 2025'.

There were no questions arising.

6. Membership Secretary / Research Manager's report: Angela Waterfall

See Website Members Area 'AGM 2025'.

Angela W added the following in addition to her report:

'I think the theme of the planned walk around Monks Risborough in Spring 2026 will be lace making; a number of East ancestors were lace makers. There are two churches with significant gravestones, and depending on who wants to come, then it could also be a country ramble. Around Princess Risborough, you have the Ridgeway of the Chilterns; it's not a winter walk! If anybody was interested, I can do another walk around Central Oxford. I know we've got quite a lot of information about Easts from Oxfordshire, and some of them were involved in the local Oxford colleges. Perhaps another ramble in London as well, around St George's Square.

Since I wrote the report I've had two more queries – one, a potential member from America, and another, aged 76, who was the last in her East line. She gave her grandfather's and great-grandfather's names and asked whether any EFHS members might be related to them. I did find her on the Ancestry Big Tree but the only offspring from that line was a female who died in 2002. After some research, I then found her father. She and her family went out to Canada when

she was a small child. Her aunt was a professional cellist called Ruth Russell East. Ruth was a member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. This could make a good article for the website! This East family can be traced back to Easts in Essex, the subject of an interesting article written back in 2014 called 'I married a Nunn'. Sarah East had eight children by Mr. Nunn but never married. The article was sent to the lady of the initial query. It turns out that Dorothy's husband, David, is related to this lady in Canada, so I'm hoping to connect the two of them.

Another query has been a house history this year - someone bought a cottage belonging to Job East in Chesham and a lady called Jennifer (not an East) wanted to know some more facts about the family. She sent me a Will and a debtor's prison report about Job, which was really interesting in terms of social history. The report described Job having to give up all his wealth - he was only allowed to keep some bedding, and anything for use for him and his family. I presume that his family went into the debtor's prison with him. They were allowed to keep blankets, but everything else had to be sold. The Will that she sent me referred to a lot of money being left in trust to an Elizabeth East. I've given the Will to Pam Pearce to translate; the writing is awful, but I'm sure she'll be able to do it.

Lastly, I hope that John will allow us to publish some of his aunt's letters, which now sit in the archive, on the website for the remarkable social history.'

Angela E asked whether anyone would be interested in doing a ramble in Hendon as she might find something about her relatives. There are quite lots of East in Child's Hill, off Cricklewood Lane. Many of the original houses were demolished, but there were quite a lot of Easts in that area.

7. Journal & Website Editor's report: Amanda Gostelow

Amanda presented some graphs prepared by her husband, Paul, which gave the 'Year to date' metrics of the website, including the number of visits, showing that 67% of visits (275) to the website were sourced from the UK, with the next biggest representation from the US and Canada. Twenty other countries were also represented.

There have recently been many additions to the website, including more early issues of Points East, some military history, information on Wills and rambles, particularly in the Member's Area; Amanda would like to put more articles there now so that they are more easily available to members.

Adam set up the website and manages it; Amanda's husband is now editing the website. Both family members were thanked for their efforts.

8. Social Secretary's report : Pam Pearce

See Website Members Area 'AGM 2025'.

9. Thanks to Event Manager - Pam Pearce

Thanks were expressed to Pam for organising the AGM event, administration and meal.

10. Founders Award

It was agreed that there would be no award given this year as all contributing articles in 2024/5 were supplied by committee members or non members.

11. Proposal for the future with a vote

The proposal for the future of the Society was discussed. The fact was stated that we have dwindling members, some through death, some do not continue their membership for one reason or another. Subscriptions were due in May, but nine members were yet to renew. Income has dwindled to approx. £540 (some members are life members) which has to cover postage, printing, venue hire, insurance and running the website. Half of current members are over 75 years, and we have struggled to attract new committee members, with four of the six current committee now resigning. There is a lot of work to maintain the society in its current format; committee members write documents, produce the journal, maintain the website, keep all the East records, respond to inquiries, organize the AGM and keep the accounts. It would be sad to close the society, but unless there are volunteers for all the committee positions, there isn't any option, because we have to have a quorum in order to have a meeting. The proposal was that we disband the formalities of the society, so we have no need for an AGM and no committee meetings, but we continue with our activities such as rambles and online discussions. The journal would not be published, but articles that people would like to share can go onto the website, and all the digitized archive material could also be available there, with potentially a chat facility to enable members to stay in touch with one another. Research would continue. Current membership would continue until the year is up (1st May 2026), so nobody's going to be losing money through this.

A vote on the proposal to close the Society was required. It was reiterated that if anyone wished to vote against the proposal, then they really need to volunteer for the committee.

Dorothy (via Zoom) expressed her concerns that though the proposal to continue to add information to the website and to hold social events was very nice, she wasn't sure that it would happen. She cannot partake of walks anymore and felt that a large proportion of the older people also can't. She's interested in the research and wouldn't like to see it stop.

Angela E added that as most of the AGM attendees (all except one) were already members of the committee but stepping down, then there really weren't enough people to fill the places. She agreed with Dorothy that when the Society becomes an unofficial organization, there's no pressure on anyone to think up

events or do the things we've been doing; human nature is such that if there's no pressure, nothing will happen. However, we all hope that we can remain in contact.

All votes from members in the room were to support the proposal to disband the Society. Dorothy voted against. Vote carried.

12. Discuss consequences of the above

Membership will last up to the end of April 2026. If anyone asks about joining the society then say that 'the society does not exist officially, but we will put you on our list, and when we have online meetings, we will let you know.'

Pam agreed to continue to transcribe Wills and send any East mentions to Angela W and for the website.

Angela E agreed to write formally to all the members to tell them of the decision. The Federation of Family History Societies will be told that we're closing as a formal society at the end of April 2026. Insurance through them can be maintained until then.

John agreed to maintain the finances of the society until there are no more. Finances would be used to maintain the website, fund membership of the FFHS and produce a final version of the journal. Events would need to be self funding where possible.

13. Election of Officers

Following the decision made to close the Society's formal activities, there is no longer a need to elect a committee.

14. Date of next AGM

Following the decision made to close the Society's formal activities, there is no longer a need for future AGMs.

15. Any other business

The Website password will be updated and sent to members.

The meeting closed.

Amanda Gostelow, 21/10/25