

## RECORD SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE COUNCIL REPORT, 2012

The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire was founded in 1878 to transcribe and publish original documents relating to the two palatine counties. It is a registered charity, no. 500434.

President	Mr J.R.H. Pepler
Council Secretary	Dr Dorothy J. Clayton
Membership Secretary	Mr J. Sutton
Treasurer and Publications Secretary	Dr Fiona Pogson
General Editor	Dr P. McNiven (until August)
	Dr M.R.V. Heale (from August)
Other Members of the Council	Dr P.H.W. Booth
	Dr P. Cotgreave
	Dr A. Crosby
	Mrs Diana Dunn
	Dr M.R.V. Heale (until August)
	Mr B. Jackson (until March)
	Dr P. McNiven (from August)
	Dr C.B. Phillips
	Dr B.W. Quintrell
	Prof. D. Szechi
	Prof. T.J. Thornton

### ***Council***

During 2012 the Council met three times: on 21 March, at the School of History, University of Liverpool; on 25 May, at the Cheshire Record Office; and on 3 October at the Department of History, University of Manchester. In addition, a General Meeting of the Society was held on 21 March, immediately following the Council meeting. The Council gratefully acknowledges the support of the Universities of Liverpool and Manchester, and the Cheshire Record Office for the provision of accommodation.

Mr Pepler welcomed Dr Alan Crosby to his first meeting of the Council on 21 March.

At the General Meeting (21 March), it was announced that Mr Bruce Jackson had resigned as a member of the Record Society Council. He was thanked for his support over a number of years.

### ***Membership***

At the October Council meeting, Mr Sutton reported that there were 127 individual members. In relation to institutional subscriptions, there is much uncertainty but if all those with 2012 outstanding subscriptions are included, the figure is 113. These figures show a definite decline in the number of subscribers.

Mr Sutton reported that a Record Society publicity flyer had been distributed to Chetham Society members and an advertisement had appeared in the *Local Historian*. It is disappointing that to date no new members have joined as a result of this initiative. During 2012 Dr Cotgreave undertook much work on the Society's website. It will go live at the beginning of 2013. It is hoped that the website will help to generate increased membership of the Society.

### ***Editorship and Publications***

At the March Council meeting, it was announced that Dr Peter McNiven wished to resign as Editor of the Record Society. The Council expressed its great appreciation to Dr McNiven for all his work for the Society over many years.

At the March and May Council meetings, the matter of the editorship was discussed at length. Dr Martin Heale has agreed to take on the role of editor for a trial period. In August 2012 Dr Heale and Mr Pepler, on behalf of the Record Society, signed a contract with Liverpool University Press, the Society's co-publisher.

*Justice and conciliation in a Tudor church court: depositions from EDC 2/6, deposition book of the Consistory Court of Chester, September 1558-March 1559*, ed. Kate Jarman was published in 2012, as vol. 146 (for subscription year 2009).

### ***Financial Statement***

Although the total net assets of the Society at 31 December 2012 were in excess of £73,000, sizeable items of expenditure (for printing and distribution of volumes) must be met soon. In accordance with Charity Commission advice, the Council is considering the Society's reserves policy. A statement about this will be included in the Council Report for 2013. At a General Meeting in March 2012, new subscription rates (from January 2013) were approved: £20 – UK individuals; £25 – institutions; and £30 – overseas subscribers. This was the first increase in subscription rates since 2000.

### ***Other Business: Presidency and Rules***

Both the Society's Rules and Presidency were discussed at the May Council meeting. Mr Pepler announced that Dr Phillips had agreed to be President from Spring 2013. The meeting expressed its approval. The membership of the Society will be asked to approve Council's election of Dr Phillips at a General Meeting of the Society on 10 April 2013.

It was agreed that a working party made up of Mr Sutton (Chair) and Drs Booth and Phillips, draft a revision of the Rules.

At the October Council meeting, Mr Sutton circulated that working party's report on the Rules of the Record Society together with a draft of the new set of Rules proposed by the working party. The final version of the Rules will be presented to the Society's General Meeting in April 2013 called to adopt new rules. The major innovations proposed are much greater involvement of the members in the affairs of the Society, and the use of electronic media for communication.