

ROMANY AND TRAVELLER FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

Founded 1994. Constitution last updated 31 July 2022

1. TITLE

The Society shall be called the Romany and Traveller Family History Society, hereinafter called the Society.

2. OBJECT

The object of the Society shall be to advance the education of the public in the study of family history and social history. In furtherance of this object, but not further or otherwise, the Society may:

- a Collect, publish, co-ordinate and make accessible any documents and records, including oral records, particularly relating to Gypsies, Scottish and Irish Travellers, Travelling Showmen, and other itinerants.
- b Promote the presentation of such documents and records.
- c Hold lectures, outings, meetings, and discussions, and issue publications.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a The Society shall consist of paid up members, affiliated institutions and societies, and such other honorary members and officers as may be elected or appointed from time to time in the interests of the Society.
- b The qualification for membership shall be a genuine interest in the stated object of the Society.
- c Applications for membership shall be made on the prescribed form, and shall be submitted to the Committee or its nominee for approval.
- d All members shall pay such subscriptions as the Committee may from time to time determine, except that the Committee shall have the power to waive membership fees for affiliated institutions and societies, and for honorary members and officers.
- e The Committee may suspend from membership any member whose activities, in its opinion, are prejudicial to the Society. Such members shall have the right of appeal to the next following Annual General Meeting, or to a Special General Meeting convened in accordance with the procedure defined in Clause 7 below.
- f The Committee shall have the power to appoint honorary members of the Society.
- g The Committee shall have the power to appoint a President and Vice Presidents to serve as honorary officers of the Society. These honorary officers shall not automatically be members of the Committee, but shall be entitled to offer themselves for election to the Committee.

4. MANAGEMENT

- a The Society shall be managed by a Committee of not more than twelve members of the Society. A quorum of the Committee shall consist of four members.
- b The members of the Committee shall be elected annually by the members. They shall serve for one year, taking office on the day after the Annual General Meeting. Nominations should be submitted in writing not less than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting. If insufficient nominations have been received to fill the vacancies, the chairman of the meeting may, at his or her discretion, take nominations from the floor.
- c The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Chairman from among its number.

- d The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members to serve on the Committee in order to give specialist advice or assistance. Such co-opted members shall not have the right to vote at Committee meetings.
- e The Committee shall have the power to appoint subcommittees to deal with particular matters. Members shall be appointed by the Committee but shall not necessarily be members of the Committee.

5. FINANCE

- a The income and property of the Society, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of Clause 2 above. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, in any manner, to any member of the Society except as provided for under Clauses 5b and 5c below.
- b Nothing herein shall prevent the repayment in good faith of reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.
- c Nothing herein shall prevent payment, to the author of a Society publication, of a royalty, calculated as a percentage of the net profit on that publication after deduction of all costs incurred by the Society in connection with the publication.
- d The Committee, or its nominee on its behalf, shall cause proper accounts to be kept with respect to all sums of money received and expended by the Society, and of the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a An Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30 June each calendar year.
- b Notice of the meeting shall be given not less than 28 days prior to the meeting.
- c The business of the meeting must include:
 - A report by a member of the Committee on the activities of the Society during the year.
 - A report by a member of the Committee on the financial position of the Society.
 - The election of members of the Committee.
 - Any other proposition or business of which at least 21 days' notice has been given.
 - Any other urgent business, at the discretion of the chairman of the meeting, with the agreement of the meeting.
- d A quorum at the Annual General Meeting shall be 15 members.
- e Only members of the Society present shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- f An Annual General Meeting can take place at a venue or by means of an online conference or by a combination of a live event and an online conference, at the discretion of the Committee. Members attending at any one of these - in person, on screen or by phone call - will be deemed to be present at the Meeting.

7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- a The Committee shall have the power to call a Special General Meeting.
- b The Committee must also convene such a meeting at the request of at least 15 members within 70 days of receiving such notice.
- c All members shall be sent notice of such a meeting not less than 28 days prior to the meeting, setting out the business to be discussed at the Special General Meeting.
- d A quorum for such a meeting shall be 15 members.

8. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority of the members present at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, providing that 14 days' notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members.

9. DISSOLUTION

The dissolution of the Society may be effected only by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of the members present at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose, of which notice has been served on every member. Any assets remaining on dissolution of the Society, after satisfying all outstanding debts and liabilities, shall not be distributed amongst the members, but shall be given or transferred to one or more non-profit-making organisations having similar objects. The liability of individual members of the Society on dissolution shall be limited to two pounds per member.