

Frome Society for Local Study (Registered Charity 292340): Annual Report and Accounts

The 61st Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held in the Assembly Rooms, Frome on Saturday March 21st 2020 at 2.00pm

Objects of the Society (shortened form)

- *To advance the education of the public in the Local History, Geology, Archaeology, Natural History and Architecture of Frome and the surrounding area*
- *To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of Frome and the surrounding area by promoting high standards of urban and environmental design*
- *To assist the restoration and preservation of buildings and artefacts in Frome and the surrounding area and to commission commemorative plaques.*

AGENDA:

- 1. Chair's opening remarks and report**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Adoption of the minutes of the AGM of 2019**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Treasurer's report**
 - a. Questions
 - b. To approve the accounts for the year ended December 31st 2019
- 6. Secretary's report**
 - a. Questions
 - b. To adopt the Secretary's report
- 7. Membership Secretary's report**
 - a. Questions
 - b. To adopt the Membership Secretary's report
- 8. To receive the report from Frome Talking Newspaper**
 - a. Questions
- 9. To receive the report from Frome and District Civic Society**
 - a. Questions
- 10. Election of Chair**
 - a. *Sara Morris nominated*
- 11. Election of officers and members of the Trustees for the forthcoming year.**
 - a. Nominations from the existing Trustees:
Richard Swann, Patricia Eames, Paul Truscott, Sara Morris, Elizabeth O'Sullivan
- 12. Election of new Trustees**
 - a. *Brian Marshall, Mike Hobbs, Bob Cuzner nominated*
- 13. Election of Committee Members**
 - a. Nominations from existing Committee members:
Hon. Secretary – Pat Eames, Treasurer – Brian Marshall, Membership Secretary – Sheila Gore, Chair of Civic Society – Richard Swann, Museum representative – Jennie OKane, Photography and liaison – Paul Truscott, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Mike Hobbs, Bob Cuzner
- 14. Any Other Business and close of meeting.**

Tea and biscuits will be available after the talk which follows the AGM
Publications will be available for sale

MINUTES OF THE 60th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FROME SOCIETY FOR LOCAL STUDY AND OF THE FROME AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY HELD AT FROME ASSEMBLY ROOMS ON SATURDAY MARCH 23rd 2019 AT 2pm

Chairman's opening remarks: Julian Watson welcomed members to the AGM. He announced the deaths, during the year, of Nicholas Pemberton, Barry Young and Charles Wood. He then paid tribute to President, Michael McGarvie who had recently been seriously ill and had resigned from his post. As he was absent from the meeting a gift will be taken to his home, in appreciation of his contribution. The chairman thanked the Committee and society members for their support and hard work, reiterating the problem of recruiting new volunteers.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Jacqueline McKee, Alastair and Marie-Louise Macleay, Ewart Baldwin, Jack and Joanna Smith, Sheila Powell, Michael and Andrea Brooke, Dinah Bardgett, Jenny Ladd, Selma Lavender and Yvonne Evans.

2018 Minutes: Their adoption was proposed by Derek Wilson, seconded by Blanche Farley and adopted unanimously.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report had been circulated previously. Its adoption was proposed by Debbie Temperton, seconded by Nicola Stoate and adopted unanimously.

Secretary's Report: There was no Secretary's report due to the post being currently vacant.

Membership: The membership report had been circulated previously. It was announced that Janet Howard is to vacate the position; she was thanked for her contribution and presented with a gift followed by a round of applause. The adoption of the report was proposed by Alison Gill, seconded by Richard Wallis and adopted unanimously.

Talking Newspaper: The report had been circulated previously and was received by the meeting.

Frome and District Civic Society: The report had been circulated previously and was received by the meeting. Ric Swann introduced himself and briefly explained the role of the group that looks at planning applications.

Election of Chairman: Liz O'Sullivan took the chair, thanking Julian for his significant contribution to the Society, this was followed by a round of applause. The nomination of Sara Morris was proposed by Julian Watson seconded by Theresa Clark and adopted unanimously. Sara Morris then took the chair, thanked Julian for his contribution and presented flowers to him and his wife, Rhona. She also read out a letter received from former Chairman, Peter Clark congratulating Julian on his successful period as Chair.

Election of Existing Trustees: Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Judith Macarthur, Richard Swann, Patricia Eames and Paul Truscott. New Trustees: Sara Morris and Ewart Baldwin. The election of those nominated was proposed by Suzanne Cooke, seconded by Jo Baverstock and adopted unanimously.

Election of New Trustees: Sara Morris and Ewart Baldwin. The election of those nominated was proposed by Susan Date, seconded by Glynis Tingay and adopted unanimously.

Election of Committee Members: Existing Committee members: Vice Chair – Ewart Baldwin, Hon. Secretary – Patricia Eames, Hon. Treasurer – Judith Macarthur, Membership Secretary – Sheila Gore, Chair of Civic Society – Richard Swann, Museum representative – Jennie O'Kane, Photography and liaison – Paul Truscott. The election, en bloc, of those nominated proposed by Suzanne Cooke, seconded by Nicola Stoate and adopted unanimously.

Any other business: Sara Morris reminded members that the season of visits is about to commence and reiterated the booking process. She also informed members of the Society's sponsorship of a lecture during the Frome Festival relating to the Singers' celebrations. Finally she announced an event on 11th May at Christ Church re: Wordsworth and Coleridge.

Chair's Report

It seems amazing that I have been Chair of the Frome Society for Local Study for nearly a year as time seems to have passed quickly. It has been a busy year for the Society with new Committee members, grants dispensed to various projects including those for Black Swan, Rook Lane Arts and the Weavers and Spinners, sponsorship of a lecture by Dr Madge Dresser, 'Statues, Slavery and Empire' and the erection of a commemorative plaque to Mr Singer on the site of his former foundry at the top of Cork Street. In addition, a successful luncheon including a local history quiz compiled by members, David Lassman and Mick Davis was enjoyed by 83 members. Twelve enjoyable and memorable day trips were undertaken during the spring and summer, whilst another fine season of lectures is still being appreciated.

Accounts show that the current subscriptions of about £3,500 per annum plus gift aid barely covers the cost of hiring the Assembly Rooms for our Saturday lectures £1,164, the cost of the speakers for these lectures about £900, the printing and circulation including postage of Contact and the annual Yearbook about £1,900. When Margery Hyde resigned as Secretary in 2018 there was no volunteer for this role so the Society employs Lorraine Johnson to do the administration including taking the Committee Minutes, dealing with any correspondence as well as editing *Contact*.

Regular Society activities not covered by our annual income are installation of commemorative plaques, subsidised Society events such as an annual meal, grants to organisations in the town, to name the regular ones. As members and Trustees of the Committee we take our responsibilities as custodians of the Society seriously and want to continue to give our loyal and valued members a good service but are concerned if we continue to subsidise all the Society activities mentioned in this report, we might be shortening the longevity of the Society. We are proposing to raise our subscriptions for the first time for many years from £10 pa for a single member and £15 for a couple to £15 pa for a single and £20 as a couple. At this year's AGM we shall be asking members to approve this recommendation, which we propose to implement in January 2021.

The Committee and I value the Frome Society and are proud that it has been in existence for over 60 years and want to ensure it survives for future generations to continue to learn about the history of our great town and the surrounding area and to enjoy participating in Society activities.

Secretary's Report

The committee and trustees met twelve times during the year. There has been a full programme of talks and visits arranged by two sub-committees. These include a successful event for the Frome Festival and a Society lunch.

Lorraine Johnson, Administrator

Treasurer's Report

As your Treasurer I am pleased to report that 2019 has been a year of many successes. All the remaining copies of *Wood to This* have been sold and the value of our investments has increased by over 12%. This enabled us to make grants of £3,630. Our Accounts have all been reviewed and approved by Chartered Accountant, Andrew Liggatt, and all in all, we are well placed to look forward to 2020 with confidence.

Brian Marshall, Treasurer

Membership Report

The membership of the society was re-opened this year. However at the time of writing this report I believe that the membership has stayed roughly static at around 460 members. An update of the total will be given at the AGM. Four of our members died during the year, they were Dr John Moxon, Dr Joyce Andrews, Jacqueline Peverley and Alan Fone. We thank them all for the support that they gave to Frome Society over the years. I'd like to thank all the members of the committee for their support this year as I took on the reigns of membership secretary. In particular I would like to thank Janet Howard and Brian Marshall.

Sheila Gore, Membership Secretary

Frome Talking Newspaper

Readers from Frome Society are on a rota of eight groups who record items from local publications for visually impaired listeners. The readings are broadcast every Saturday from 12-1pm on Frome FM, 96.6 FM and can also be accessed online anytime at Frome.fm August saw the retirement of Julie Brimson and we thank her for the twenty years of service to Frome Talking Newspaper on behalf of FSLS.

Joan Pattison

Frome and District Civic Society Annual Report

We are indebted to our dedicated panel of members who met every 3 weeks over the last year, who currently are: Richard Swann (chair), John Peverley, Pat Smith, Phil Gryce, Jean Lowe, Debbie Little and Rebecca Harrison. We have reviewed about 300 Frome planning applications and responded to planning policy developments (Local Plan part II) by Mendip District Council, on large sites at Saxonvale, SGV and other speculative pre-application proposals.

Richard Swann, Chair Frome & District Civic Society

Frome Society for Local Study and Frome and District Civic Society

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2019
BALANCE SHEET

	<u>31 December 2019</u>	restated <u>31 December 2018</u>
	£	£
Capital Employed		
Investments at Valuation	72,336	64,060
Current Assets		
Publications	2,210	2,500
Publications – Woad to This	-	1,507
Debtors	1,095	-
COIF Deposit Account	-	12,248
Cash at Building Society	22,445	22,223
Cash at Bank	<u>16,181</u>	<u>9,432</u>
	41,931	47,910
Deduct Current Liabilities		
Creditors	<u>520</u>	<u>400</u>
	<u>41,411</u>	<u>47,510</u>
	<u>113,747</u>	<u>111,570</u>
Represented by		
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	111,570	113,070
Loss/Gain of income over expenditure	<u>2,177</u>	<u>(1,500)</u>
	<u>113,747</u>	<u>111,570</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income		
Subscriptions	3,549	3,389
Outings, Lectures and Events	11,418	11,213
Publications	6,143	11,688
Gift Aid	700	678
Interest	268	275
Donation	-	200
Miscellaneous	<u>-</u>	<u>100</u>
	22,078	27,543
Expenditure		
Outings, Lectures and Events	13,221	11,980
Publications	985	2,209
Author's Fees	1,219	1,049
Year Book	1,400	1,350
Administration	1,677	1,604
Singer Shop Sign and Plaque	1,007	-
Subscriptions	568	568
Donations and Grants	3,630	922
Professional Fees	2,469	2,225
Insurance	<u>204</u>	<u>194</u>
	<u>26,380</u>	<u>22,101</u>
	(4,302)	5,442
Loss on Revaluation of Publications	(1,797)	(4,434)
Gain/Loss on Revaluation of Investments	<u>8,276</u>	<u>(2,508)</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIENCY	2,177	(1,500)