

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

The 61st Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday 31st October 2020. This replaces the cancelled AGM due to take place at 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. Approve prior Election of Chair (undertaken via emails)**
 - a. *Sara Morris nominated*
- 11. Approve prior Election of officers and members of the Trustees for the forthcoming year (undertaken by emails)**
 - a. Nominations from the existing Trustees:
Richard Swann, Patricia Eames, Paul Truscott, Sara Morris
- 12. Approve prior Election of new Trustees (undertaken by emails)**
 - a. *Brian Marshall, Mike Hobbs, Bob Cuzner nominated*
- 13. Approve prior Election of Committee Members (undertaken by emails)**
 - a. Nominations from existing Committee members:
Vice-Chairman – Mike Hobbs, Hon. Secretary – Pat Eames, Treasurer – Brian Marshall, Membership Secretary – Sheila Gore, Chair of Civic Society – Richard Swann, Museum representative – Jennie O'Kane, Photography and liaison – Paul Truscott, Bob Cuzner, Elizabeth O'Sullivan
- 14. Any Other Business and close of meeting.**

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

This is my report for another new Society event, a virtual Zoom AGM as our usual March meeting was cancelled with everything else. Activities in 2020 which did go ahead were the lectures as we only had to cancel the final one scheduled for the weekend at the beginning of lockdown. All were most enjoyable and well attended.

Alastair MacLeay has edited his last Yearbook, having edited them for 10 years most successfully. He has made the Yearbook very much a jewel in the Society's crown and I am sure I am in accord with members who realise what a gem we receive as this book is full of fascinating information and is free to members. Alastair is handing on the baton as editor to Mick Davis, local historian and writer, now a member of the Society committee. Alastair will continue to be in charge of the Society's publications. Another thank you goes to Joyce Wilson, who with her husband Derek and Paul Truscott have organised several most enjoyable Society residential study trips.

While in Lockdown via emails and in consultation with the Charity Commissioners, who only communicate online, our

new Committee has been voted in by members and is now registered with the Charity Commissioners. Details of the Committee are on this agenda. In response to strong representations from a member of the Society some changes to the wording of the Society's Constitution have been approved by Committee members and the Charity Commissioners. If any members are interested to see these changes please contact either Brian Marshall or myself. Also the Committee held its first Zoom meeting earlier this month but hope to be back in the Museum very soon when it is safe for small groups to meet face to face.

During these last months I have had terrific support from Brian Marshall, Lorraine Johnson and other members of the committee. Mike Hobbs, a new Trustee, is now Vice Chair and with Paul Truscott has undertaken support and organisation of the distributors of *Contact* and the Yearbook. I ask that if there are members on email who still have a paper copy of *Contact* that they strongly consider replacing that with an email version. We now have approximately 460 members and it is a huge task for all these to be hand delivered and indeed the printing is a not inconsiderable cost so this would be a big help to the Society. If you are prepared to make this change please email membership@fsls.org.uk

A big thank you to another new member Liz Corfield who has most successfully led two research projects on how the people of Frome have coped with Covid 19 and an ongoing research group looking at how the town has changed over the years via Census reports. Another big thank you to Bob Cuzner, Chairman of Frome Heritage Museum, who is now a Trustee of the Society who not only has been very generous with allowing the Society to use the Museum premises but has been a big help with technically helping the Society to have a Zoom committee meeting and is getting involved in enabling the Lectures Group to organise Zoom lectures for the Autumn.

Finally a big thank you to You, our members, for still staying with the Society during this very strange year and I heartily hope we can offer you a better service next year.

Nearer the time all Society members whose email addresses we have, will be sent further details of this meeting to be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 31st October 2020 which will include a link to this event. I am hopeful that during the next few months I shall be able to keep all Society members informed as I am in discussion with the Frome Times about writing a monthly column about our Society...so watch this space!

Sara Morris, Chair

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) |