

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

The 61st Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on Saturday 9th October 2021, at 2pm

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 2020
- 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 and District Civic Society**
 - a. Questions
- 9. Approve prior Election of Chair (Julian Watson, as previous Chair, will temporarily preside)**
 - a. *Sara Morris nominated*
- 10. Approve prior 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, Brian Marshall, Bob Cuzner and Mike Hobbs
- 11. Approve prior Election of new Trustees**
 - a. *Dr Pat Smith nominated*
- 12. Approve prior Election of Committee Members**
 - a. Nominations from existing Committee members:
Vice-Chairman – Mike Hobbs, Hon. Secretary – Pat Eames, Treasurer – Brian Marshall, Membership Secretary – Liz Corfield, Chair of Civic Society – Pat Smith, Museum representative – Jennie O'Kane, Photography and liaison – Paul Truscott, Bob Cuzner, Ric Swann, Sheila Gore, Mick Davis
- 13. 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

Covid permitting, this will be the first AGM I shall have chaired for the Society since I was appointed in March 2019, due to the virus. I am hoping this will be a face-to-face meeting as for many months our main forms of communication have been zoom, emails and phone calls.

Brian Marshall and I, with excellent back up from Janet Howard, John Peverley, John Corfield and Sue Plummer, hosted 16 Saturday afternoon zoom lectures and as time went by had virtual audiences of up to 70+ computers. During the summer we shall have had three coach trips to Bowlsh House, Russell Cotes Museum in Bournemouth and a tour of the historic town of Southampton but are hoping to organise more next year.

We are in the process of erecting a commemorative plaque to Edward Cockey and his foundry in Palmer Street led by Ric Swann. During the year Ric has stepped down as chair of Frome Civic Society after expertly leading the Society for eight years and has handed the baton on to Dr Patricia Smith who is doing an equally fine job of trying to combat the alarming tsunami of planning applications hitting Frome.

One small administrative task which I need to mention is that at the request of one of the Society members, some small changes were made and approved by the Charity Commissioners, to the Society's constitution in June 2020 to wording relating to activities and election of Society Trustees.

Mick Davis, a new member of the committee, who is a successful local writer and historian, is now with great style editing the Yearbook. If you haven't yet collected a copy from the Museum please collect one from the AGM at the Assembly Rooms on 9th October or phone Mike Hobbs (01373 461768) or Paul Truscott (01373 300141) to request a copy be delivered to you. I am sure you have already read that this year the Society is trialling a new form of distribution of the Yearbook as many of our distributors, some of whom are growing quite old and infirm, have complained the books are too heavy for them to hand deliver. If any of you want to comment on this new form of delivery please let either Mike or Paul know on the phone numbers provided!

I am indebted to Brian Marshall, the Society's treasurer, Mike Hobbs, vice-chair and Liz Corfield who has gallantly taken over the Membership Secretary duties from Sheila Gore who has a huge workload with the Frome Town Council.

I am very grateful to Bob Cuzner and Brian, with his Museum hat on, for allowing the Society to use the Museum not only for face to face meetings but also a *poste restante* for our correspondence and for generously offering to once again store the Society's possessions which are returning from Chapel Barton, courtesy of Alastair MacLeay. I and the Society owe Alastair a big debt of gratitude for so expertly editing the Yearbook for 10 years, all his tireless work with the Society's publications and as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer over the years and for taking in the Society's possessions when relations between the Museum and Society were not so cordial!

Other thanks go to Lorraine Johnson, our excellent administrator, Katy Duke, our webmaster, Pat Eames for continuing to organise the Society meal and administer the trips and Jennie O'Kane and her team who are waiting in the wings to organise more trips next year. Also big thanks to Janet Howard, John Peverley, John Corfield and Sue Plummer for organising our excellent lectures.

Most of all I wish to thank you, our loyal Members, for remaining with us through these difficult months and I am looking forward to seeing you all again.

Sara Morris, Chair

Secretary's Report

The Committee and Trustees met via Zoom monthly during the year. There has been a full programme of talks via Zoom and three visits arranged by two sub-committees as well as a successful event for the Frome Festival.

Lorraine Johnson, Administrator

Treasurer's Report

As your Treasurer I am pleased to report that 2020 was a quiet and moderately successful year. The value of our investments increased by £1,318 to £73,654 which was in line with the stock market for the year. Covid 19 meant the outlets for the sale of publications were closed for most of the year resulting in sales of only £2,008. About 80% of members are now paying their membership subscriptions by standing order for which we are extremely grateful as it reduces the work of both the Membership Secretary and myself. Please can I ask members who pay by cash or cheque to consider setting up a standing order, forms will be available at talks in October, November and December or email membership@fsls.org.uk and a form will be emailed to you.

Brian Marshall, Treasurer

Membership Report

The membership of the Society remains open and the current membership, as at 1st July 2021, stands at 442. Sadly the following members of the Society have died since the last AGM: Douglas Pickworth, Bob Morris, Mary Good, Donald Heseltine, Angela Lewis, Diane Rouse, Barry Pitcher, Sheila Courtney, Helen Wynter. We thank them for all of the support that they gave to Frome Society over the years. We have been fortunate to add 2 new life members.

Copies of the application form for membership are available from the museum, the membership secretary or may be downloaded from the FSLs website - fsls.org.uk. Because of the demands made upon her time in other areas Sheila Gore has reluctantly given up the role of Membership Secretary, which she has held for two years. I have now taken over and we would like to thank committee members for their support, especially from our Treasurer Brian Marshall.

Liz Corfield, Membership Secretary

Frome and District Civic Society

Our planning panel has continued to work remotely this year, scrutinising nearly 300 planning and listed building applications in the Frome area, including a number of major development sites. Richard Swann stood down as chair in January 2021 but remains on the panel along with Pat Smith (chair), Phil Gryce, Rebecca Harrison, Jean Lowe and John Peverley. Other work by members has included responding to a wide range of policy and development consultations, and campaigning for the preservation of heritage buildings at risk.

Pat Smith, Chair, Frome and District Civic Society

Frome Society for Local Study and Frome and District Civic Society

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2020
BALANCE SHEET

	<u>31 December 2020</u>	<u>31 December 2019</u>
	£	£
Capital Employed		
Investments at Valuation	73,654	72,336
Current Assets		
Publications	2,510	2,210
Computer Equipment	303	-
Debtors	1,738	1,095
Cash at Building Society	22,669	22,445
Cash at Bank	<u>12,515</u>	<u>16,181</u>
	39,735	41,931
Deduct Current Liabilities		
2021 Subscriptions paid in 2020	125	
Creditors	<u>300</u>	<u>520</u>
	<u>39,310</u>	<u>41,411</u>
	<u>112,964</u>	<u>113,747</u>
Represented by		
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	113,747	111,570
Loss/Gain of income over expenditure	<u>(783)</u>	<u>2,177</u>
	<u>112,964</u>	<u>113,747</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income		
Subscriptions	3,642	3,549
Outings, Lectures and Events	69	11,418
Publications	2,008	6,143
Gift Aid	800	700
Interest	<u>224</u>	<u>268</u>
	6,743	22,078
Expenditure		
Outings, Lectures and Events	791	13,221
Publications	2,090	985
Author's Fees	309	1,219
Year Book	1,400	1,400
Administration	1,161	1,677
Singer Shop Sign and Plaque	-	1,007
Subscriptions	568	568
Donations and Grants	-	3,630
Professional Fees	2,545	2,469
Depreciation – new laptop	76	-
Insurance	<u>204</u>	<u>204</u>
	<u>9,144</u>	<u>26,380</u>
	(2,401)	(4,302)
Revaluation of Publications	300	(1,797)
Gain on Revaluation of Investments	<u>1,318</u>	<u>8,276</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIENCY	<u>(783)</u>	<u>2,177</u>