

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

The 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on Saturday 19th March 2022, at the Assembly Rooms, 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 2021**
- 4. Matters arising: Proposed Changes in Wording of Constitution**
- 5. Treasurer's report**
 - a. Questions
 - b. To approve the accounts for the year ended December 31st 2021
- 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, Mike Hobbs, Dr Pat Smith
- 11. 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, Richard Swann, Mick Davis, David Lassman
- 12. Any Other Business and close of meeting.**

MINUTES OF THE 61ST 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 OCTOBER 9TH 2021 AT 2pm

Chair's opening remarks: Sara Morris welcomed members to the AGM. She announced the Society's autumn/winter programme of events before undertaking the sad task of informing members of the deaths of Helen Wynter, Douglas Pickworth, Mary Good, Bob Morris, Donald Heseltine, Angela Lewis, Diane Rouse, Barry Pitcher and Sheila Courtney.

She announced the retirement of the Town Walk team: Alastair MacLeay, Janet Millar and Cliff Bawden and thanked them wholeheartedly.

Sara informed members of minor changes to the wording of the Constitution at the request of a Society member which were approved by the Charity Commissioners in June 2020 and also the alteration of the wording asking members to pay their subscriptions by the end of March rather than June. These ratifications were proposed by Derek Wilson and seconded by Victoria Turner. She reiterated the need to ensure that as many members of possible are contactable by email and, if possible, should receive all communications electronically to assist with administration.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Sara Bowley, Bob Cuzner, Ruth Angel, Wendy Harwood, Margery Hyde, John Hyde, Ewart Baldwin, Elizabeth Robertson, Jenny Ladd, Sheila Herring, Angela Bowen, Judith Macarthur, Sylvia Hodges, Janet Howard, Cliff Howard, Gail Cray and Norman Cray.

2019 Minutes: Their adoption was proposed by Alastair MacLeay seconded by Jo Baverstock 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 Blanche Farley, seconded by Marjorie Morris and adopted unanimously.

Secretary's Report: There was no Secretary's report due to the post being held as an honorary position by Pat Eames. Administration is undertaken by Lorraine Johnson.

Membership: The membership report had been circulated previously. It was announced that Sheila Gore has vacated the position and the role has been taken on by Liz Corfield. The adoption of the report was proposed by Freda Webb, seconded by Edith Cox and adopted unanimously. Sheila was later thanked for her hard work in the role.

Frome and District Civic Society: Pat Smith delivered her report, having replaced Ric Swann who she thanked for his work. She introduced herself and informed members of the range of planning applications assessed by the Committee. The adoption of her report was proposed by Jo Baverstock and seconded by Suzanne Cooke.

Election of Chairman: Julian Watson briefly took the chair to undertake the nomination of Sara Morris as Chair which was seconded by Blanche Farley and adopted unanimously. Sara Morris then explained that she would be happy to stand for another year but wishes for another person to take over the role after that time. Blanche Farley gave a vote of thanks to Sara Morris.

Election of Existing Trustees: Richard Swann, Patricia Eames, Paul Truscott, Sara Morris, Brian Marshall, Bob Cuzner and Mike Hobbs. The election of those nominated was proposed by Julian Watson, seconded by Derek Wilson and adopted unanimously.

Election of New Trustees: Pat Smith. The election of those nominated was proposed by Julian Watson, seconded by Derek Wilson and adopted unanimously.

Election of Committee Members: Existing Committee members: Vice Chair – Mike Hobbs, Hon. Secretary – Patricia Eames, Hon. 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, Mick Davis. The election, en bloc, of those nominated was proposed by Theresa Clark, seconded by Alastair MacLeay and adopted unanimously.

Any other business: Jane Wood proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for organising the Zoom lectures throughout the lockdown period. Blanche Farley asked whether there was still a limit on the number of members and Sara Morris informed her that this has now been abolished.

Chair's Report

It seems strange to be writing a report for an AGM, as I am writing this at the end of December 2021, only a few weeks after we had an AGM in October. However this has not been an ordinary year and we thought if we had an AGM in March this would get us back in to our usual pattern, so an AGM is being organised for Saturday 19th March at our last lecture of the season. Hopefully this will be back at the Assembly Rooms!

There are two pieces of business which need to be dealt with on this occasion. One is the Society's Constitution. Members might remember that at our October meeting I mentioned that a member requested I bring to the AGM the fact that he had requested some minor changes to the wording of the constitution which was approved and seconded. Subsequently it was made clear to me that more notice should have been given to members before expediting this piece of business. I also want to draw your attention to a new clause to the constitution: to make administration easier we want to stipulate that members should pay their subscription by the end of March, which gives 3 months to pay, from January to the end of March. Please find a copy of the Constitution with these changes in *Contact*. The other piece of business is the committee has agreed that from January 2023 subscriptions should be raised to £15 for an individual and £20 for a couple. This will be the first time subs have been raised in many years. Whereas it is well known that the Society does have capital in investments the committee and I are aware that the Society has been in existence since 1958 and we want it to be around for many more years so we need more income to cover expenses. The rising cost of postage is a factor especially as we have over 70 members still not on email so we need to post contact and other information. For the price of our subscription members get a free copy of the Yearbook which retails at £10 a copy, 6 months of lectures. Our trips are based on cost price as is the annual lunch. As we have not received a volunteer to be a Secretary we pay for our administration. The decision to raise our subscriptions has not been taken lightly but we hope members will understand the need for these modest increases and continue to support the Society and will support myself and the committee in asking you to approve the increases at the AGM.

Another activity of note is Ric Swann, from the Civic Society has taken the lead in having a commemorative plaque to the memory of Edward Cockey and his famous iron foundry. This has not been an easy process as Ric has encountered difficulties getting answers from the building's owners in Palmer Street, Frome and the District Council but he has persevered and the plaque should be up in a few weeks' time. Many thanks go to Ric and his enthusiastic group of Cockey supporters who are also having the iconic lamps renovated.

It just leaves me to thank members of the Society committee for their continued much valued support and hard work as without them the Society would not still be here. I particularly want to mention Brian Marshall, our treasurer and my techy with the zoom lectures, Liz Corfield who has taken on the role of Membership secretary and Frome Festival Lecture coordinator, Mike Hobbs, vice chair and with Paul Truscott responsible for delivering *Contact*, Mick Davis for being editor of the Yearbook and taking on the Society Publications from Alastair MacLeay, Pat Smith for leading the Civic Society so well and for participating so fully in the work of the Frome Society, David Lassman for becoming our first Press secretary, Jennie O'Kane for continuing to organise the trips with her group and Janet Howard and her colleagues for the excellent lecture programme. Also thanks to Pat Eames for organising the society lunch and for her help with the trips. Also may I thank Bob Cuzner and his colleagues at the Museum for making the Society so welcome and enabling us to store our archive. A special thank you to Alastair MacLeay who has for so many years done a splendid job with the Society publications, as Editor of the Yearbook, leading the Town Walks and being available with his extensive local history knowledge to help many people with their enquiries. Alastair is now retiring from most of these activities and the Society owes him a deep debt of gratitude for all he has done. And finally thank you to you, our Members, for continuing to support us.

Sara Morris, Chair

Secretary's Report

The Committee and Trustees met monthly either face to face or via Zoom when this was not possible. There has been a full programme of talks during the autumn/winter latterly continued via Zoom.

Lorraine Johnson, Administrator

Treasurer's Report

As your Treasurer I am pleased to report that 2021 was another successful year. The value of our investments increased by just over 10% from £73,654 and £81,301. Covid 19 meant the outlets for the sale of Publications were closed for the first few months of the year. The value of Publication Sales increased slightly from £2,008 to £2,189. Expenditure for the year exceeded Income by £4,868 and I fully support the proposal to increase membership subscriptions from 1st January 2023.

Brian Marshall, Treasurer

Membership Report

Membership continues to rise and now stands at 464. Sadly two members have died – Roz Pickersgill and Isobel George.

Liz Corfield, Membership Secretary

Frome and District Civic Society

The Civic Society has been exceptionally busy, working on several major housing development applications around Frome. In addition to making our formal responses, we have attended MDC Planning Board meetings, liaised with other stakeholders and engaged directly with housebuilders. Meanwhile, our planning panel has continued to scrutinise the usual wide range of planning and listed building applications from individual householders, businesses and developers. We continue to work largely remotely, but have met to discuss major applications.

Pat Smith, Chair, Frome and District Civic Society

Frome Society for Local Study and Frome and District Civic Society

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2021
BALANCE SHEET

	<u>31 December 2021</u>	<u>31 December 2020</u>
Capital Employed	£	£
Investments at Valuation	81,301	73,654
Current Assets		
Publications	3,150	2,510
Computer Equipment	227	303
Debtors	-	1,738
Cash at Building Society	-	22,669
Cash at Bank	<u>31,705</u>	<u>12,515</u>
	35,082	39,735
Deduct Current Liabilities		
2021 Subscriptions paid in 2020	-	125
Creditors	=	<u>300</u>
	<u>35,082</u>	<u>39,310</u>
	<u>116,383</u>	<u>112,964</u>
Represented by		
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	112,964	113,747
Gain/Loss of income over expenditure	<u>3,419</u>	<u>(783)</u>
	<u>116,383</u>	<u>112,964</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income		
Subscriptions	4,012	3,642
Outings, Lectures and Events	3,011	69
Publications	2,189	2,008
Gift Aid	752	800
Interest	<u>228</u>	<u>224</u>
	10,192	6,743
Expenditure		
Outings, Lectures and Events	5,258	791
Publications	1,950	2,090
Author's Fees	300	309
Year Book	1,600	1,400
Administration	1,074	1,161
Subscriptions	568	568
Donations and Grants	1,000	-
Professional Fees	2,575	2,545
Depreciation – new laptop	76	76
Cockey's Plaque	455	-
Insurance	<u>204</u>	<u>204</u>
	<u>15,060</u>	<u>9,144</u>
	(4,868)	(2,401)
Revaluation of Publications	640	300
Gain on Revaluation of Investments	<u>7,647</u>	<u>1,318</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIENCY	3,419	(783)