

FRIENDS OF MANX NATIONAL HERITAGE

Annual General Meeting

Held at 11am on Saturday 21st November 2020
at the Manx Museum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas

Present: Mr M Crowe (Chairman)
Mr E Southworth (Director, Manx National Heritage)
Mr H Shimmin (Treasurer)
Miss A Moore
Ms H Leigh
Mrs V Fayle
Mrs M Bridson

In attendance: Mrs N Pemberton and 39 other members

1. Notice convening the meeting and Apologies for Absence. The published notice convening the meeting was taken as read. Apologies for absence received from 11 members.

Mr Crowe welcomed members to the meeting.

2. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 11am on Saturday 26th October 2019, having been circulated to members present, were approved by the meeting for signature by Mr Crowe.

3. Chairman's Report.

A Chairman's Letter from Mr Crowe had been circulated to all Members with the Members' mailing of October 2020.

Referring to the letter, Mr Crowe said that the first and most obvious point was the impact of the coronavirus pandemic since the last AGM. Mr Crowe reflected on how lucky we all are to live where we do and how the Island supported us all during lockdown. In turn he said that he was delighted that so many members have continued to support FMNH throughout the year. Membership of FMNH helps to directly preserve our unique cultural heritage and also supports the acquisitions and conservation of the National Collection. This had been even more important during the pandemic where MNH's revenues were much reduced.

Mr Crowe referred to the airbridge with Guernsey where members had been able to enjoy reciprocal benefits with the National Trust of Guernsey.

Mr Crowe also thanked Nicola for the Newsletters which had been sent out throughout lockdown with quizzes, recipes and other things to keep people occupied and informed. He said that the feedback had been very positive, and he thanked Nicola and Mary for keeping morale up during lockdown. Mr Crowe said that he was delighted that members' events had restarted as soon as lockdown was eased, with the first indoor event at Close Leece on 2nd October being fully booked.

The Volunteer programme had been on hold, but he nevertheless wished to thank our core of volunteers for their time and commitment especially at the Grove, Cregneash and Rushen Abbey Gardens.

Mr Crowe also said that the FMNH office had been busy updating members' records during lockdown and encouraging those with email to update their addresses.

Mr Crowe concluded by thanking all the Directors for their enthusiastic and dedicated service throughout the year. He also particularly thanked the Treasurer Harley Shimmin, and Nicola and Mary.

4. Treasurer's report.

Mr Shimmin reported:

INCOME

Subscriptions – The figures shown on the Balance Sheet were just a fraction up on last year, taking into account the deferred income element. The actual amount received this year is down by about £6000. Annual subscriptions were up £1000, but there was a reduction of £1500 in 10 year subscriptions and a reduction of £2,000 in the Corporate membership. Life income was £3000 down.

Deposit Interest

For most of the year FMNH have retained similar balances to last year, but interest rates were slightly better. Rates slumped again post year end. Barclays, in particular, will not accept deposits for less than a six month term and even then their rates are derisory.

Donations

Nothing significant this year.

Events

Naturally, income has reduced considerably in this unusual year with several events having to be cancelled because of Coronavirus.

EXPENDITURE

Heritage Awards

Our main awards this year were £44083 from the Professor Bucke bequest for work at the Grove and the costs of the Horticulture Manager, and £11774 for the commencement of works at Thornbank.

Post, printing, stationery and sundry expenditure

General expenditure is fairly similar to last year, but there was extra expenditure this year of C £2000 on new Cards & Presentation folders.

ASSETS

Deferred Income

This relates to Subscription Income of £44334 which is due within this present Financial Year and £63203 which is due over the next ten years.

Bank Balances

At the end of the Financial Year we held £1000 at the Isle of Man Bank on Current Account with £316,000 at Barclays and £416,000 at Lloyds on Fixed Deposit Accounts.

Committed funds

The accounts show that FMNH has committed in excess of £520000 to various projects as of 31st March 2020. £31811 re Rushen Abbey, £48392 re the TT museum, £18290 re the Peggy workshop, £86333 re the Prof Bucke legacy and £336000 re Thornbank.

In conclusion Mr Shimmin thanked Mrs Pemberton and Mrs Bridson for their support throughout the Year. He was also extremely grateful to Phaedra Bird and Chris Dent from Crowe Isle of Man Audit LLC for their guidance and advice in the preparation of our latest Accounts.

A resolution to adopt the accounts was proposed by **Mrs Nola Baker & seconded by Mr Kit Pemberton. The Meeting approved.**

5. Election of Directors.

Mr Harley Shimmin, Miss Alison Moore and Mrs Mary Bridson, Directors retiring by rotational rule, had been proposed and seconded, and had expressed their willingness to continue to serve. **The Meeting approved.** Mr Crowe said that in future, he would welcome more nominations from the floor.

6. Appointment of Auditor.

Mr Shimmin proposed Crowe Isle of Man LLC for re-appointment, seconded by Mr Crowe. **The Meeting approved.** It was noted and appreciated by those present that Crowe Audit LLC provide the assistance in the production of our accounts.

7. Report from Manx National Heritage.

Mr Southworth started by announcing that he would be retiring during 2021. He said that he had greatly enjoyed his time as Director of MNH and his association with FMNH. This would therefore be his 11th, and last, presentation.

Mr Southworth said that it had been an unusual and difficult year. With lockdown and remote working, staff had had domestic pressures alongside pressures of work. 55 cruise ships had been booked during the year, all had had to be cancelled and other advance bookings had all been cancelled. Some staff had been reallocated to other government departments to assist with fighting the virus.

Mr Southworth said that MNH were rethinking their approach to the use of paper and resetting their focus to the community. Some sites had not reopened because they couldn't be made Covid secure.

There was currently no annual plan, merely one for the next three months and then a quarterly review. Much – like the TT Gallery - was on hold. There had been no tenders received for the work required.

MNH had done an online exhibition which was very successful and this may become a feature of the future.

Mr Southworth then proceeded to show a Powerpoint presentation highlighting some of the things which had taken place during 2020.

These included:

- The virtual opening of the Ruth Borchard Exhibition (Ruth had been interned in the Isle of Man)
- Quilting workshops
- Pop up catering at MNH sites
- Tours of Castletown and Cregneash
- Support of Wildlife Week in May. The signing of a MOU between the Manx Wildlife Trust and MNH
- Community service with work with the Probation Service at Cregneash
- Continuation of Digitisation of records
- Annual Events (where possible)
- The unveiling on Trafalgar Day of the newly sited bronze bust of Captain John Quilliam RN who now fittingly looks out over Castletown Bay.

Mr Southworth also paid tribute to the world-renowned Manx Photographer Chris Killip who died in October.

Lastly, Mr Southworth thanked the Directors and Administrators of the Friends, and all members of the Friends, for their support during such a tough year.

Mr Crowe thanked Mr Southworth for the very informative presentation and wished him a long and happy retirement.

8. Any other business.

There were no questions to the Director.

Mr Crowe thanked the members for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 1215pm