



FRIENDS OF MANX NATIONAL HERITAGE
Annual General Meeting

Held at 11am on Saturday 25th November 2023 at the Manx Museum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas

Present:

Mr. M Crowe (Chairman)

Mrs. V Fayle

Mrs. M Bridson

Ms. H Leigh

Miss A Moore

Mrs. C Lovel (Executive Director, Manx National Heritage)

In attendance: Mrs. E Morter and 24 other members.

1. Notice convening the meeting and Apologies for absence.

Mr. Crowe welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked if members were content that he be appointed as Chairman of the meeting. **Agreed.**

Apologies had been received from Harley Shimmin (Treasurer), Ian Young (FMNH Board Member) and 16 others.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 13th November 2022, having been made available to members were approved by the meeting. Proposed by Mr. Michael Crowe and seconded by Mr. Michael Goodman.

3. Chairman's report.

The Chairman's report had been made available on the FMNH website. Mr. Crowe introduced the new Development and Admin Officer Emma Morter. He spoke about the valuable work done by Friends Volunteers at MNH sites, particularly in their gardens and invited anyone who would like to volunteer to get in touch with Emma. Mr. Crowe also reiterated the aims of FMNH. He mentioned that a programme of events for 2024 is being put together and that as we are a fundraising charity, member events would be charged for. Mr. Crowe also spoke about the recent acquisition by MNH of some Quayle family miniature portraits with funds provided by the Friends. As the hammer price was lower than expected, the Board had agreed that the remaining funds could be used by MNH to purchase further coins for their Viking collection. Mr. Crowe concluded by asking that members supply their email addresses wherever possible, to keep down the cost of communication.

4. Report from Manx National Heritage.

Connie Lovel (Executive Director of Manx National Heritage) gave a wide-ranging presentation on the recent and forthcoming activities of MNH. She began by saying that the small team at MNH are facing challenging times post-pandemic, with the economic crisis meaning that demands on Treasury's funds make fundraising by MNH as a registered charity crucial. Pay awards and utility price rises must be covered from MNH funds. Staff are encouraging donations from visitors, and these are increasing. Funds from FMNH have supported projects such as the TT Gallery; conservation and framing of artworks for the forthcoming Art Gallery redisplay; acquisition of the Quayle miniatures; purchase of some important 12th and 13th century Viking

coins which were found at the site of a beach market and potentially indicate the first point of contact between the Island and the Vikings; and re-patination of the Capt. Quilliam statue in Castletown (which was sadly vandalised shortly after it had been returned to display). Friends Volunteers have provided valuable support in the gardens at the Grove, Cregneash, Rushen Abbey and Castle Rushen; at Heritage Open Days in September and October; at the Society for Folklife Studies conference in September; at Hop Tu Naa, and in the Library and Archives with cataloguing. Friends volunteers also restored a sidecar unit which is now a popular item in the TT Gallery, where people can take selfies of themselves in costume and racing poses.

Exhibitions and events in the last twelve months were described, including the Racehorse exhibition in Castletown; Unlocking Our Sound Heritage, with podcasts on Manx Radio; the Shipwrecks project; publication of over 600 new internment records and thousands of Bird Atlas records; Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition; 'Crucible' and 'Thirty' at the House of Manannan; the Museum 100 exhibition; and community engagement with events such as the Brownies' and Cubs' whodunnit event at the Museum, which saw 200 children helping the police solve the mystery of the theft of the 'Castle Rushen Ruby'. Future projects were outlined and include the proposed new £6m Nautical Museum (there was a great visual 'walk through' of the planned new building), which would be the first new MNH capital project since the opening of the House of Manannan; Laxey Wheel Phase Two conservation; refurbishment of Calf View, Cregneash as heritage holiday accommodation; Castle Rushen and the Grove repairs; and a new exhibition in February 2024 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the RNLI. In conclusion, Connie thanked the Friends for their continuing support.

5. Treasurer's report.

Unfortunately, the Treasurer Harley Shimmin was unable to attend the meeting, so Mr. Crowe read out his report:

INCOME

Subscriptions – the figures shown in the Balance Sheet, taking deferred income into account, are just about £3,000 to the good. For this year the biggest reduction is £4,500 in the 10 year and £2,500 in the Corporate section. However, the Annual members have stayed similar at £60,000, and Life members have increased by £3,000.

Deposit Interest – From our point of view it has been good to see the rates increasing to the present level of 5%+ and so we see an increase in almost £11,000 over last year.

Donations – Once again, we are indebted to a local entity, who wish to remain anonymous, who have contributed £10,000. We are also very grateful to several other donors who have helped us this year.

Events – once again during this year we have held several money raising events which have been well supported.

EXPENDITURE

Heritage Awards – No large awards have been made this year. However, we have paid £7,253 towards the cost of the Horticulture Manager, £5,000 for the re-patination of the Capt. Quilliam bust, £2,676 for defibrillators at the Laxey Wheel and Cregneash, £3,000 for new planting, £5,962 for garden projects and £4,392 for Motorsport acquisitions.

Subscription Collection Charges – Almost the same as last year. We no longer use the services of the Isle of Man Post Office. They were going to charge a large amount to amend their system for our benefit. This was not viable for us in view of the small number of members using this service.

ASSETS

Deferred Income – This is in relation to our Subscription Income with £43,583 due within the present Financial year and £54,661 relating to 10 Year and Life subscriptions which are taken into the Accounts over the next ten years.

Bank balances – Our Bank balances are higher this year because our donations and Deposit Interest are well up on last year, whilst our Heritage Awards are much less.

Committed Funds - £5,659 re Professor Bucke legacy, £15,000 for a stacker truck, £10,000 for re-patination of the Watcher and £2,798 for planting.

In conclusion, [Harley Shimmin] would like to thank the Directors, especially Michael and Mary for their support. Phaedra Bird and Chloe Macdonald at Crowe Isle of Man LLC have been very helpful, as usual, in the preparation of these Accounts and giving much guidance and advice.

6. A resolution to adopt the accounts was proposed by Mr. Richard Green and seconded by Prince Frederick von Saxe-Lauenberg. **The Meeting approved the resolution.**

7. **(1) Election of Directors.**

Mr. Michael Shimmin, Ms. Helen Leigh and Mrs. Viv Fayle were Directors retiring by rotational rule. Ms. Leigh did not wish to stand for re-election. Mr. Shimmin and Mrs. Fayle, having been proposed and seconded, expressed their willingness to continue to serve.

Michael Crowe proposed by Dave Martin and Seconded by Prince Frederick von Saxe-Lauenberg.

Viv Fayle proposed by Dave Martin and Seconded by Prince Frederick von Saxe-Lauenberg.

The Meeting approved.

Mr. Michael Crowe expressed his thanks to Ms. Leigh for her service to the Friends.

(2) To propose the appointment of a Director to the Board and to confirm that the requirements of Article 32 have been met. **Nobody had been proposed.**

8. **Appointment of Auditor.**

Mr. Michael Crowe proposed Crowe Isle of Man LLC for reappointment, seconded by Michael Goodman. **The Meeting approved.**

It was noted and appreciated by those present that Crowe Audit LLC provide assistance in the production of our accounts.

9. **Any Other Business.**

Prince Frederick Von Saxe-Lauenberg wished to make the meeting aware that the World Peace Gardens Network seeks to adopt a garden on the Isle of Man and dedicate it as a World Peace Garden. This was noted.

Mr. Michael Green asked who the lead partner in the Kirk Maughold Crosses Project is. Mr. Dave Martin answered in his capacity of Vice Chairman of the Trustees of Manx National Heritage that this is *not* a Manx National Heritage project. MNH as the guardians of the crosses are responsible for ensuring that the crosses are looked after and they are contributing to the project with advice. Pam Kerruish is the head of the committee for this, and it is a parochial project. Mr. Michael Crowe thanked Dave Martin for answering the question.

There being no further business, Mr. Michael Crowe expressed his thanks to Mrs. Mary Bridson, Mr. Harley Shimmin and the FMNH Board for their support and the meeting concluded at 12.18pm.