

# FRIENDS OF MANX NATIONAL HERITAGE

## **Annual General Meeting**

Held at 11am on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
At the Manx Museum, Kingswood Grove Douglas

Present: Mr M Fayle (Chairman)  
Mr E Southworth (Director, Manx National Heritage)  
Mrs A Kaye  
Mrs M Bridson  
Mr M Moore

Mrs N Pemberton and 18 other members.

Mr Fayle welcomed members to the Meeting. The published notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Mr H Shimmin, Mr R Quayle and from 13 members.
2. **The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**, held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010, having been circulated to members, were approved by the meeting for signature by Mr Fayle as the Chairman.
3. **Chairman's Report:**

A letter from the Chairman had been previously circulated.

Mr Fayle explained that times were tough but he wanted to focus on the positives going forward. The continuing success of FMNH and the ever growing band of volunteers was a particular positive. He highlighted that in the ten months of 2011 alone; FMNH volunteers had already contributed over 5,000 man hours in assisting MNH. He thanked all concerned.

Mr Fayle said that membership numbers were holding at 5900 and beginning to increase again. Annual membership was staying the same and the 10 year membership was growing. Corporate membership was also growing.

He was pleased to report that a reciprocal agreement with CADW, in Wales, had recently been successfully negotiated by FMNH. This still needed to be ratified by MNH Trustees at their next meeting, but would be a valuable extra benefit of FMNH membership (for IoM residents).

Mr Fayle also announced that the new FMNH website had been soft launched. In addition to a completely new look, it included PayPal for online purchasing of membership and donations. Also up and running was FMNH's Facebook page. Lastly, a new arrangement had started with the Isle of Man Post Office for membership/renewals to be transacted at PO counters. All of these initiatives should make it easier for FMNH to reach its members, and vice versa.

He thanked the Directors and Nicola for all their hard work over the year.

## **4. Treasurer's report:**

In Mr Shimmin's absence Mr Fayle commented on the reduced set of accounts handed out to the meeting.

Annual subscriptions were up slightly by £499. 10 year subscriptions were increased by £3820, but Life subscriptions were £6450 less than the previous year. Corporate subscriptions had increased by £2173.

Mr Fayle wanted to highlight the value of volunteers' hours which made a big difference to the contribution of FMNH, but which obviously doesn't feature in the accounts.

He explained that Heritage purchases were £45574 in the period (an increase of approx. £36000); balance sheet net assets were just under £600,000 and there was £130,000 committed to projects for the iMuseum and the House of Manannan.

In conclusion Mr Fayle thanked Phaedra Bird of Crowe Clark Whitehill Audit LLC for their assistance in preparing the accounts.

The Treasurer's report and Resolution to adopt accounts for period ended 31<sup>st</sup> Mach was proposed by Mr T de Beaufre Apps and seconded by Mrs M Bridson.

## **5. Election of Chairman**

Mrs Pemberton took the Chair for the election of the Chairman. Mr Fayle had been formally proposed by Mr Moore and seconded by Mrs Kaye. There being no further nomination, Mr Fayle was unanimously re-elected.

## **6. Election of Directors**

Mr Fayle reported that Mr Moore and Mr Quayle were the members retiring under the rotational rule. They had been proposed for re-election by Mrs Kaye and seconded by Mrs Bridson and had been duly re-elected.

## **7. Appointment of Auditor**

Mr Fayle proposed Crowe Clark Whitehill Audit LLC (formerly Horwath Clark Whitehill Audit LLC) for re-appointment, seconded by Mr Pemberton. This was agreed. It was noted and appreciated by those present that Crowe Clark Whitehill Audit LLC provide the services of Auditors free of charge.

## **8. Proposed increase of Membership Fees**

Mr Fayle explained that the proposed increase of membership fees was to reflect a fair relationship with MNH. MNH had itself increased fees.

The Resolution that membership subscriptions be increased (as outlined below) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 was proposed by Mr Moore and seconded by Mrs Bridson. The Resolution was passed by the meeting.

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Annual membership</b>		
Adult	£26.00	£28.00
Additional Adult at the same address	£16.00	£18.00
Children 5 - 15	£6.00	£6.00
<b>10 year membership</b>		
Adult	£210.00	£230.00
Additional Adult at the same address	£120.00	£135.00

<b>Life membership</b>	£600.00	£660.00
<b>Corporate membership</b>	£24.00	£26.00

## **Report from Manx National Heritage Director**

Mr Southworth reported that he had enjoyed meeting and getting to know FMNH and he felt that there had been improved communications between the two bodies.

He went on to explain that MNH had introduced charging for their events programme and would be looking at other ways of increasing their income. He wanted to categorically assure FMNH that MNH would not do anything to 'damage the Friends'.

Mr Southworth continued by explaining that 75% of MNH's funding came from Government but MNH was not a Government department. MNH has its own charitable status. MNH's vision is to inspire people to a greater understanding and act as a Guardian to the Island's unique heritage and cultural assets. He wanted to strengthen Manx identity and contribute to the national economy.

Mr Southworth spoke about the MNH Trustees purchase of a Baillie Scott house called Thornbanks in Falcon Cliff Terrace in Douglas. This house was a fine example of Baillie Scott architecture and would potentially be used for holiday lets. He hoped that small groups of FMNH members could be shown around before the general public.

He also explained that MNH had recently commissioned two important pieces of research - to assess the value of MNH to the Island's economy, and visitor market research. FMNH would be invited to the results presentation on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012.

Lastly, Castle Rushen was in the process of being looked at by a conservation management team and a lecture on Castle Rushen would be given in the New Year.

## **8. Any other business**

Mr T de Beaufre Apps asked "What is going to happen to the Nautical Museum?"

Mr Southworth replied that the Museum needed significant investment to the building and the Peggy. It was difficult to decide what to do for the best and a conservation management plan would be done within the next 10 years, but not in the next 5. The Peggy is on the Historic Register.

Mrs M Maylott asked "Is it sensible having staff working on their own at the Nautical Museum"?

Mr Southworth replied that MNH would be looking at how the sites in Castletown work and would be re-visiting how staff are deployed.

A question was asked: "What was happening to Larch Garrard's cottage"?

Mr Southworth replied that it was in the hands of her Executors. MNH had only been asked, thus far, to transfer some plants to the Grove and Rushen Abbey.

Mr Fayle reported that he had been asked to become Chairman of BAfM. This was an honour and reflected well on FMNH. He said it would undoubtedly be a challenge, but FMNH was a good model to work from.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.25.