



FRIENDS OF MANX NATIONAL HERITAGE

Annual General Meeting

Held at 11am on Saturday 13th November 2022
at the Manx Museum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas

Present:

Mr H Shimmin (Treasurer)

Mrs V Fayle

Mrs M Bridson

Ms H Leigh

Miss A Moore

Mrs C Lovel (Executive Director, Manx National Heritage)

In attendance: Mrs N Pemberton and 23 other members

1. Notice convening the meeting and Apologies for Absence.

Mr Shimmin welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Mr Crowe had had to travel off Island at short notice. Under Article 15 of the Articles of Association the Directors had asked him to chair the meeting. He asked if the members were content that he be appointed as Chairman of the meeting. **Agreed.** Apologies had been received from Mr Crowe and 12 members.

2. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 11am on Saturday 13th November 2021, having been circulated to all members, were approved by the meeting for signature by Mr Shimmin.

3. Chairman's Report

Mr Shimmin said that the Chairman's letter had been circulated in advance. He therefore didn't feel he needed to elaborate any further unless anyone had any queries. **None.**

4. Treasurer's report.

Mr Shimmin reported:

INCOME

Subscriptions – The figures shown in the Balance sheet this year show income slightly down on last year after calculating the Deferred income. The good news was that the actual subscriptions are well up with the following figures:

	Annual	Life	10 Year	Corporate	Total
Actual 2021	54,528	1,000	10,100	5,703	71,331
Actual 2022	59,799	1,000	13,295	11,572	86,296

Deposit Interest

For most of the year Deposits were only receiving 0.00% up to 0.18% hence the large reduction in interest received. Thankfully the rates are slowly increasing with rates of 1.98% now being received.

Donations

Once again FMNH are indebted to a local entity - who wish to remain anonymous - for a donation of £5,000. Also, we have received £850 and £1,000 from 2 donors. To all these people and several smaller benefactors, we are extremely grateful.

Events

Income was well up at £8,724 with only £841 set against this figure for costs. The main event was the opening of Ballachrink Mill gardens to members by Nicola and Kit. This raised about £4,000. Other smaller events were also well supported by members.

EXPENDITURE

Heritage Awards

£44,000 was paid towards the TT Gallery, £12,000 for the Nautical Museum and £38,530 for the Horticulture Manager and work on the Grove Gardens.

Post, printing, stationery and sundry expenditure

New membership cards were purchased for £1,128. and there were online and Digital Service costs of £1,894.

ASSETS

Deferred Income

This relates to £43,873 which is due within this present Financial Year and £57,896 relating to 10 year and life subscriptions which is due over the next 10 years.

Bank Balances

Overall, our bank balances were down because of larger awards to MNH this year. Now that rates of interest available have started to increase we will be looking to place excess funds on deposit until MNH seek further funds for new projects.

Committed funds

There are several alterations in this Section. The majority of the TT Museum funds have been drawn down, the Peggy workshop has been cleared, the refurbishment of Thornbank has been deferred for the time being. The Professor Bucke legacy, which has been used to cover the wages of the Horticulture Manager and carry out works in the MNH gardens is at a low level and the Friends will be looking at the possible continuation of this project.

In conclusion Mr Shimmin thanked the Directors, especially Michael, Mary and Nicola for their support. Phaedra Bird, Tafara Zhou and Chloe MacDonald at Crowe Isle of Man LLC who have been very helpful as usual, in the preparation of the accounts giving much guidance and advice.

5. A Resolution to adopt the accounts was proposed by Mr I Young and seconded by Mr C Pemberton. **The Meeting approved the Resolution.**

6(1). Election of Directors.

Mr H Shimmin, Mrs M Bridson and Miss A Moore, Directors retiring by rotational rule, had been proposed and seconded and had expressed their willingness to continue to serve. **The Meeting approved.**

6(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.**

6(3). To note the retirement of Mr Ian Young who was appointed to the board by the Directors on 24th January 2022 and to propose his reappointment by Members' resolution in accordance with Article 34(2). **The Meeting approved the reappointment.**

7(1). To propose and if thought fit approve the amendment of the definition of 'Child Membership' as follows: -

That any person under the age of 18 should qualify for child membership (in line with the policy of Manx National Heritage). **The Meeting approved the Resolution.**

7(2). To consider and if thought fit to approve the subscription increase circulated in the Agenda.

Mr Shimmin explained that there had not been an increase last year because of Covid.

Mr C Pemberton queried the increase proposed for Annual membership. Considerable discussion followed with a number of comments raised that the increase was too great in the current climate and might deter people. Ms Leigh said that the Directors had had a long debate on the subject. Mr D Martin asked how costs were going to be controlled? In response to a question, the Membership Secretary said that Annual, 10 year and Life membership currently stood at around 4000, with approximately half being Life members.

Mr T McDonald proposed an Amendment that the Annual subscription should be raised to £40. The Amendment was put to a vote. The result was 17 for to 11 against. **Mr Shimmin declared that the Amendment was carried, and that the Annual subscription would therefore be increased to £40, with the other price increases approved.**

After the vote Mrs M Hastings commented that the vote wasn't representative of the membership as a whole. Mr Shimmin said that this would be noted.

8. Appointment of Auditor.

Mr Shimmin proposed Crowe Isle of Man LLC for re-appointment, seconded by Mr I Young. **The Meeting approved.**

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

9. Report from Manx National Heritage.

Connie Lovel (Executive Director, Manx National Heritage) gave a wide-ranging presentation on the recent activities and focus of MNH.

She started by saying that funds are very tight and the grant from Government had been cut by 60%. She went on to highlight achievements like the opening of the new Museum 100 exhibition – and the work of Volunteers over a whole range of events. She said, for example, that Hop-tu-Naa was dependent on volunteer support. As was the work of volunteer gardeners. She highlighted conservation work and exhibitions - including that of HMS Racehorse, sunk off Langness 200 years ago, which saw six of the vessel's crew and three rescuers from Castletown drowned, and partly inspired the establishment of the RNLI. Work has also been ongoing on Peel Castle, Captain Quilliam's statue, Laxey Wheel and Arnie the mannequin. She acknowledged funding by FMNH. Mrs Lovel mentioned the Round Mounds Project and the amazing find of a bronze age jet necklace there.

Mrs Lovel said that the focus is for accessibility and relevance and the need to stimulate interest from wider audiences. MNH really appreciate the support of FMNH. Planning is difficult because of the bid system and health charities win hearts and minds over heritage charities.

The role of MNH is to “Champion, Protect and Promote our heritage for future generations”

She concluded by thanking Nicola in particular for all her hard work and support and wished her well for her retirement. Mr D Martin also thanked Nicola on behalf of the MNH Trustees.

10. Any other business.

Mr Hibbert raised the question of keeping in touch with members who were not so technically minded. Mr Shimmin said that although email is preferred in order to save costs, there was no reason to think that posting official material would be stopped for those who specifically ask for it. Mrs Pemberton said that members are always welcome to telephone or write. She also explained that any event tickets that Manx National Heritage were selling for their events, could be paid for and collected from the shop at the Manx Museum.

Mr Shimmin then gave a vote of thanks to Nicola for the 20+ years that she has served the Friends. **Carried with applause.** Nicola was presented with a gift from the Directors and a large bouquet of flowers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 1205. Mr Shimmin thanked the members for attending.