

FRIENDS OF INNERPEFFRAY LIBRARY

Minutes of twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Innerpeffray Library (a Scottish charity No SC023545) held in the Schoolroom, Innerpeffray on Wednesday 12 April 2017 at 6.30pm

Present: 30 members (whose signatures appear in the attendance book)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Frank Thomson, Jean Ann Scott Miller, Heather Elworthy, Edward Elworthy, Kirsty Macdonald, Elma Crighton, Maureen Nicholson, Cairns Mason, James Haggart

2. Minutes of 2016 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the twenty-third AGM held on 13th April 2016 were taken as read and approved as a correct record of that meeting on proposal of Dorothy McLaughlan, seconded by Lillian Baird.

There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

3. Committee Report for the year to 31st December 2016

Convenor's Report on behalf of the Committee

FOIL doesn't seem to have unsuccessful years, so I'm commencing this report in the same old way: I'm pleased to report that 2016 was another successful year for FOIL.

I must confess at the outset that the title of this missive to you is a shade misleading because I am no longer your Convenor. I have sold my home in Perthshire and am returning to my native Australia. FOIL committee member Peter Parke has kindly assumed the role of Acting Convenor and he will offer himself for election as the Convenor at the forthcoming AGM. But you have not seen the last of me: I plan to return to Scotland in general - and Innerpeffray in particular - frequently, commencing this summer.

It may be a surprise to some that my report to you does not come in the customary form: as part of the FOIL-*facts* magazine. Many of you will recall that at last year's AGM I announced the committee's view that the production of FOIL facts was no longer a justifiable expense. With the launch of our website, a year or so ago we are able to make a lot of information available to our members, and to the wider public, at minimal cost. Many of you are now internet users and the website allows you to look up information about FOIL, including the Talks Programme, whenever you wish. However, the committee has always recognised that some of our members are not internet users and we pledged to 'leave no-one behind'. That means we will continue to send you, by postal mail, the AGM Notice, the Talks Booking Form, and various other items of interest. All of these documents will be available on the website and we hope many of you will opt to receive the information by e-mail, rather than by Royal Mail. In addition to the material we send out in preparation for the AGM, you are welcome to call in at the Library when it's open and ask Lara to show you what's on the FOIL website and to print a particular article for you, if you would like to have it in written form.

We recognise that this will not be a welcome change for some of you, but we could no longer justify the expenditure of almost £1000 to produce and post FOIL-*facts* .

Please talk to your committee if you have any concerns about how you will receive information and how you can stay in touch.

The 2016 talks were, as usual, given by speakers of a high standard and the occasions were well attended. The varied programme ranged from fish sculpture & fishing to railways & the Drovers' roads, with lots more along the way, thus appealing to a wide range of listeners. We continued to attract skilled, interesting people to talk to us without charge, thereby raising useful funds for the Library. We are extremely grateful to all the speakers for being so generous with their time and their

knowledge.

On the arts side, we had talks about sculpture, wood carving and silversmithing, we had local history in the form of the railways of Strathearn and the drove roads, art history from Dr James Grant with the art of The Plague, and wider history with the story of Wojtek the Bear. Sadly Sophie Younger's talk on textile conservation was cancelled at very short notice when she fell ill, but happily it has been incorporated in this year's programme, for the month of September.

The **2017 Talks Programme** promises to be our usual appealing mix of topics. The booking form is enclosed and I hope that many of you will book in advance for the whole season, thereby making the tasks of administration and planning easier for the incoming committee.

Do note the special talk for the month of July: it's on the third Wednesday, rather than our usual slot of the second Wednesday, to accommodate the speaker who will be in Crieff at that time for the exhibition of the Diaspora Tapestry. Jean Ann Scott Miller has arranged this speaker for us, as the Tapestry is coming to Crieff as part of the 'Crieff Remembers' event, of which Jean Ann is an instrumental organiser. We are greatly indebted to Crieff Remembers for providing this speaker.

FOIL has become something of a fixture at the **Drummond Castle Charity Fete**: 2016 was our fourth year of operating the home-baking stall and it continues to be a good money-making venture for FOIL. We raised a very pleasing £540.

Thanks are due to my committee for their exceptional help & support, by both donating goods and working behind the stall on the day. And thank-you to all of you who donated baking, preserves & sweets for us to sell. We couldn't do it without you.

A new fundraising venture for 2016 was the **FOIL Quiz**, conceived by former committee member Kim Liddiard and sold with energetic zeal by committee members Beth & Peter. An astonishing £408 was raised from sales of the quiz, with lots of feedback indicating this should be a regular event.

2016 saw a welcome return of the **Christmas carol concert** performed in Innerpeffray chapel by the Innerpeffray Singers under the direction of Joan Taylor. Takings from the concert were an amazing £1275. Huge thanks are due to Joan for her tireless efforts in arranging the concert, to the members of the choir for their superb performance and to you, the members of FOIL, for your support in making the event the magical experience that it was.

At last year's AGM you agreed that we should put FOIL's funds to work restoring some of the books in the Library's collection. It's an ongoing need and a good use for our funds. Lara has sent numerous books away to be repaired and the collection is looking that little bit more beautiful as a result. More importantly, those books which have received attention will now last longer and be able to bring joy to more people. You can read more about this in Lara's report.

The FOIL committee continues to work closely with Lara and the Governors to support and preserve the Library. We are coordinating our events and sharing information about those events and the Library on our individual websites. Our ultimate aim is to have seamless communication and operation between our two organisations. I urge you all to support and attend events arranged by Lara, just as you do the events arranged by your FOIL committee. You may be aware that Gil Martin, of Innerpeffray Lodge, is a member of both the Library's Governing Board and the FOIL committee, which provides a closer working relationship between the two bodies.

At this juncture I owe thanks to a number of people: Firstly, to Peter Parke for being of inestimable help to me in this busy past year; to John Mauchline, Treasurer, for continuing to manage our finances and efficiently deal with our paperwork, despite his own very busy practice; next, to my committee for their devotion to the task of helping manage FOIL's events and activities throughout this past year; to Lara, dedicated Keeper of the Books who is always willing to help FOIL; and, finally to you, FOIL members, for your ongoing support of the library through FOIL. Thank-you and goodbye.

Jo Ann Munro

4. Accounts for the year to 31st December 2016 and Independent Examiner's Report

The accounts were prepared by John Mauchline (Hon. Treasurer), approved by the Convenor and independently examined by Mr Bill Thomson.

The main points from the financial statement were summarized as follows by John Mauchline:

Membership Income – had increased by £300, 10% year-on-year, helped by one life membership payment.

John had reported last year that we were re-aligning the subscription year. Members are due to pay on the anniversary of their joining date. This is being simplified with memberships due early in the New Year and the plan is to send reminders to all members to prompt payment. If you have a standing order set up, don't worry, the Treasurer is happy to take your money as and when!!

Other income came from meetings and talks - £1694 and Fund raising: £500+ from the cake stall at Drummond Castle; £500 from the quiz and £1200 from the Carol Service £1,200. John thanked Kim Liddiard, Beth McDowall and Joan Taylor

The money was spent as follows: we paid a total £10,565 to the Library. This included £10,200 towards Car Park and external lighting and a further £350 towards the renovation of books. The Treasurer anticipates paying out a further £7,900 for the car park and lighting.

Currently there are funds of £9,000.00 available for distribution to the Library. This ensures that FOIL will meet its charitable obligation of spending at least 75% of the money raised. The committee also intends to retain a small amount for contingencies.

The Treasurer thanked Bill Thomson, Independent Examiner, for his assistance.

There being no questions the accounts were approved by the meeting on the proposal of Helene Mauchlen, seconded by Pamela Haggart.

5. Appointment of WGR Thomson as Independent Examiner for the year to 31st December 2017

WGR (Bill) Thomson kindly agreed to continue as Independent Examiner and is duly appointed.

6. Appointment and election of office bearers

Jo Ann Munro has returned to Australia leaving the position of Convenor vacant; Peter Parke had indicated his willingness to stand. There being no other nominations he was duly appointed on a motion by Robin Bell, seconded by John Mauchline.

Joan Taylor (Hon. Secretary) and John Mauchline (Hon. Treasurer) had both indicated their willingness to continue in post. There being no other nominations and no objections both were duly elected.

7. Election of new Committee members

Helene Mauchlen having served her fixed term has retired from the committee. Peter Parke thanked Helene for her contribution, energy and enthusiasm.

The election of Kirsty MacDonald to the committee was proposed by Peter Parke, seconded by John Mauchline and AGREED.

Robin Bell, Pamela Haggart, Beth McDowall and Gill Martin were all reappointed to the Committee on proposal of Lillian Baird, seconded by Gillian Wade.

8. A vision of the future of Innerpeffray Library – a presentation by the Governors of Innerpeffray

Peter Parke welcomed The Chairman of Governors, Martyn Wade, who spoke of the challenges that the Governors faced is trying to encourage people to visit the Library. While members of FOIL are aware of the magnificent collection housed in the Library and the beautiful location it is important to encourage new visitors to the site

Innerpeffray Library is now in possession of the Janet St. Germain bequest, this significant collection of books was amassed throughout her life and it was her wish that it go somewhere where it could be seen and appreciated. The final tranche has just arrived including first editions of Walter Scott’s novels and a Kilmarnock Edition of Burns’ poems, there are only 105 other copies of this in the world. These are all housed downstairs in the Library in an area developed thanks to FOIL

The next stage of development for the Library is crucial as its future needs to be secured for coming generations. The Governors propose to develop an interpretive walk highlighting the historical significance of the Library and its location. It is also important to improve the Schoolroom facility. Dr Jim Grant said that while draft applications have been presented to various organisations and greeted positively it is important that the Governors have the support of FOIL. There has already been significant progress, all applications should be complete by the end of 2017 and hopefully by 2019 the project will be ‘up and running’. Peter Parke told the AGM that the FOIL committee has agreed to work with the Governors on their ambitious vision. Details need to be worked out so that everyone knows what is needed to turn the vision into reality.

FOIL would need to help with fund raising and the committee would not undertake this lightly always keeping the membership informed.

9. Any other competent business

The newly elected Convenor said that because of huge administrative expenditure it had been decided to stop publishing FOIL Facts. However, not everyone has access to the internet, only 25% of members keep up to date on line. To that end the new Committee would produce a shorter update called FOIL News available online and in hard copy for members. This would be significantly cheaper to reproduce.

Peter Parke thanked Jo Ann Munro for her hard work during her tenure as Convenor and also thanked the energetic and enthusiastic committee. Lara Haggerty, Keeper of Books, is core to all that happens at Innerpeffray and FOIL is very grateful for all her support, suggestions and enthusiasm.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Signed.....Convenor

Signed.....Secretary

Date.....