

FRIENDS OF INNERPEFFRAY LIBRARY

Minutes of twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Innerpeffray Library
(Scottish charity No SC023545) held in the Schoolroom, Innerpeffray on Wednesday 10 April
2019 at 6.30pm

Present: 17 members (whose signatures appear in the attendance book)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Mrs Frances Wishart, Mrs Louise Powell, Mrs Hannah Leckie, Mr Martyn Wade, Dr. Jim Grant

2. Minutes of 2018 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the twenty-fifth AGM held on 11th April 2018 were taken as read and approved as a correct record of that meeting on proposal of John Mauchline, seconded by Mark Liddiard.

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

3. Committee Report for the year to 31st December 2018

Convenor's Report on behalf of the Committee

I am pleased to report that the 2018 silver jubilee year for FOIL was hugely successful.

I want to start by thanking those on the Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm in ensuring that the year was a success. Pamela Haggart led the catering side for all the events, Kirsty MacDonald very much in support and the lead for the Cake stand at the Drummond Fete, Gillian Wade and John Mauchline for their work on co-ordinating ticket sales, arranging talks and providing a space for Committee meetings and as Hon Treasurer, Alison Martin has done a wonderful job in making our talks known about and found new and different media and publications for our promotion, Joan Taylor for her contributions through the Carol concert, Hon Secretary and thinking about things that anyone else might have missed. Without mentioning all the names I would also like to acknowledge here the considerable contribution by the spouses of the Committee who as unsung heroes pitch in whenever needed (which can be often!).

There are others who although not on the Committee have contributed to FOIL's continuing success. Fiona Murchie, has provided a precise of the talks for us to send to the Media and post on the website and she and her husband David did a sterling job at the Carol concert co-ordinating all the ticket sales on the day. Peter Parke has continued to provide invaluable support with our online presence and kept the website up to date and ensured that those buying tickets through this route can continue to do so. Beth McDowell and Helene Mauchlen have helped with car parking, setting up and taking down of the stage and chairs in the Chapel for our bigger events. Lastly but

not at all least, we all wish to thank Lara Haggerty for her involvement with FOIL and help with our events from setting up the room/pc / projector to her readings and insights from books in the Library at the end of each talk, we very much appreciate her contribution.

John Mauchline has also been investigating the opportunity for us to recover gift aid on membership payments and other small donations. I am please to say that so far he has recovered over £400 from HMRC and as a result of this exercise I would like to ask all members to agree that we can hold their name and address and to acknowledge to us that you are UK tax payers (provided you are) which will help John recover more monies from the Government each year.

The 2018 talks were, as usual, given by speakers of a high standard and were well attended. The Committee decided to ensure that the Silver Jubilee of FOIL was appropriately marked, as a result we focused on special events for June and invited Val McDermid to speak in the Chapel about 'Killing People for Fun and Profit' it was a vibrant event and exceeded the Committee's expectations. The Chapel was packed with new and old FOIL friends and this made for a wonderful atmosphere and lively discussion in the Q&A's. Val said how much she had enjoyed the opportunity to address this particular audience and is now a keen supporter of the Library at Innerpeffray. In June we had a special Silver Anniversary Lunch, it was a beautiful June day and guests enjoyed champagne in the sunshine, looking out over the newly opened up vista to the right of the schoolroom. After feasting on three courses Lara gave these guests a very special behind the scenes tour of the Library.

The talks in 2018 ranged from learning about those who borrowed books from the Library, to hearing about a novel which features the Library; uncovering more about Beatrix Potter's love of Perthshire (despite England playing a key game in the World Cup it was a well attended talk) and cleverly linked with a later talk on Early Photography in Perthshire. We also heard about the last journey of the City of Adelaide clipper, a connection with to last year's FOIL talk and exhibition about the Scottish Diaspora. Finally, nearing Halloween we heard about the Art of writing a Ghost story and especially about those who visited Mary Queen of Scots.

*We had two musical events in 2018, firstly, **Chansons**, Perth Chamber Choir, provided the audience one September afternoon with a magical Autumn Serenade and then in December our annual **Christmas carol concert** in Innerpeffray chapel, directed of Joan Taylor was standing room only and highlighted that this event is once again becoming a 'must book' for our December calendars. Takings from the concert were an amazing £1200. 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 coming along with family and friends.*

The Committee is excited about the talks lined up for 2019 as they promise to be varied and appealing, on a mix of diverse 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 committee.

Once again we joined other charities fund raising at the Drummond Castle Charity Fete: the home-baking stall was well supported by members baking and it continues to be a good money-making venture for FOIL. Yet again we broke records by taking £600. Thanks are due in particular to Kirsty MacDonald for coordinating and planning the event and the committee for donating goods and working behind the stall on the day. A massive thank-you to all of you, who donated baking, preserves & sweets for us to sell, we couldn't do it without you.

The FOIL Quiz, continued the 'Silver' theme and we had a record number of entries. At Perth Farmers Market in May, Peter Parke, Beth McDowell and Donald (Peter's grandson) sold copies and Library merchandise with energetic zeal. Again, perhaps because it was the Silver Anniversary we raised more this year on the quiz than in the past, £501 was raised from sales of the quiz, with lots of positive feedback about the enjoyment it provides.

The FOIL committee works closely with Lara and the Governors to support and preserve the Library. As you are aware the Governors spoke to us about their plans for improvements on site to encourage more visitors and make the facilities better for those who do attend. Members of FOIL have helped with clearing of trees and general advice regarding the Heritage Walk, which is much appreciated by the Governors. We have been beneficiaries of these improvements through the vastly enhanced facilities in the schoolroom – many people have commented on how much better the indoor loo is than the one we had at the back in a rather draughty spot. Since last year's AGM, I am pleased to be able to say that the Governors sought and was successful in receiving all the grants they required to be able to get the project underway and make necessary improvements, all the work has been carried out to schedule, which is a testament to the way the Project has been run. The FOIL Committee decided that it should also financially support this project (especially as FOIL benefits significantly from the improvements) and as a result £10,000 was paid towards the refurbishment of the schoolroom, the kitchen and loo. Earlier in the year we suggested to the Governors that it would be useful for them to have an independent survey of the state of their estate before determining exactly where their priorities lay for capital expenditure. As a result a survey of Innerpeffray Library, School House and School Room took place on 12th July 2018, we paid £900 for the survey and report is with the Governors.

We are continuing to coordinate our events with the Governors and sharing information about them on the Library website and vice versa on our website. Please continue to support and attend events arranged by Lara and the Governors, just as you do the events arranged by your FOIL committee.

During the year I mentioned the Committee's idea of a FOIL Cookbook and this is still very much our plan, thank you to everyone who has donated a recipe so far and please do keep them coming in. We anticipate that we will be 'publishing' a book with recipes in 2019.

Our current challenge is with regard to the website and its maintenance, Peter has done a fantastic job keeping this going for the last 12 months, however, we need to pass this responsibility on to someone else and are struggling to find anyone with the skills to pick this up. We've had a quote from an external body that could improve our offering and update the website but the cost of this is c£2500

which does not seem a wise use of funds to the Committee. If we do not find anyone who is willing to take over this role we will stop providing a FOIL website and revert to the paper process we had before. It is a difficult choice as many people prefer the paper option and don't use the website for booking tickets, some members have complained about the way the booking system on the website works and would like a better option, this all costs money. What we've been using to date is relatively cost free and this means that it may not be perfect but it does the job. Please let me know if you have any ideas or thoughts about the best way forward.

Finally to you, FOIL members, thank you for your ongoing support of the Library through FOIL, for attending the talks and supporting our different activities, it makes it very much worthwhile for the Committee knowing that we have your support and enthusiasm for what we hope is an interesting and thought provoking year of events ahead of us.

Kim Liddiard added to her report by congratulating the Governors on the completion of the Innerpeffray Project, the work done to enhance the Schoolroom has been a huge positive for FOIL members. The whole project had been completed on time and was fully funded. FOIL had made the significant contribution of £10,000.

The FOIL committee aimed in 2019 to improve the website. Costs to upgrade and revamp the website were estimated at over £2500 and the committee did not think that this was the best use of funds. Peter Parke had very kindly agreed to maintain the website until such times as we could progress this task.

The 2019 season would take a slightly different form with the September talk being in the form of a performance of two Operettas by Alexander McCall Smith and Tom Cunningham. The Cake Stall would again be manned by FOIL at the Drummond Castle open day in August. FOIL would also be helping at the Library when the Three Inch Fools performed Macbeth in July and at the Grand Opening of the walk in September there would be a significant FOIL presence.

A dilemma for the Committee is charging for talks. To clarify the situation from April 2019 each member will pay £5 to attend a talk but the cost will rise to £10 for guests. This still offers extremely good value to members and is important to help offset the cost of refreshments at each meeting. It will also hopefully encourage more people to join.

Kim also thanked Bill Thomson for all his work as Independent Examiner for many years.

4. Accounts for the year to 31st December 2018 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:

The total income for the year was up by some £2300.00 to £9500

Membership Income – was also up by over £1000

Other income came from meetings and talks - £1833.00 and Fund raising: £2863 John thanked all the committee in their efforts and in particular Kirsty McDonald, Kim Liddiard, and Joan Taylor

The money was spent as follows: we paid a total £13337 to the Library.

Currently there are funds of £3,000.00 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 contingences.

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

Allan Downie asked about the cost of meeting expenses, John explained that the sum indicated on the accounts included increased postage and advertising costs.

There being no questions the accounts were approved by the meeting on the proposal of Kenneth Graham, seconded by Martin Boyle.

5. Appointment of Mr Frank Strang as Independent Examiner for the year to 31st December 2019

Frank Strang kindly agreed to become Independent Examiner following the retirement of Bill Thomson. His appointment was approved on proposal of Pamela Haggart, seconded by Sue Murray

6. Appointment and election of office bearers

Kim Liddiard had indicated her willingness to continue as Convenor. There being no other nominations she was duly appointed on a motion by Tony Murray, seconded by Alison Martin.

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

Gillian Wade, Pamela Haggart, Kirsty McDonald and Alison Martin were all reappointed to the Committee.

Shona McLaren was elected to committee on proposal of Kirsty MacDonald, Seconded by Joan Taylor. Charles Crookshank was also elected to committee on proposal of Mark Liddiard, seconded by John Mauchline

8. Any other competent business

A vote of thanks to Lara Haggerty, Keeper of Books was proposed by Joan Taylor and Seconded by Gillian Wade

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 7.10 pm

