**Friends of Innerpeffray Library**

**Founded 1993 Scottish Charity SC 023545**

**Thirty First Annual General Meeting**

**10 April 2024**

**Schoolroom, Innerpeffray Library**

Joan Taylor, Convenor, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Friends of Innerpeffray Library received the following apologies: Louise Powell, Louise Pengelly, Simon Pengelly, Sue Murray, Jean Ann Scott Miller, Stanislava Tasheva, Steph Haxton, Naomi Harvey, Fiona Wilkes, Peter Parke.

All those present signed the attendance book.

1. Minutes of the thirtieth Annual General Meeting and Any Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Minutes Proposed By: John Mauchline

Seconded By: Roddy Liddell

1. Report of the Committee for the year to 31 December 2023 and Convenor’s Report

 Convenor’s Report for the year to 31st December 2023 This is my fourth report as Convenor of the Friends of Innerpeffray Library and I am pleased to say I can deliver it saying that in 2023 season there were no cancellations due plague, lockdown, unforeseen circumstances and inclement weather! In 2023 we presented a wide range of talks, concerts and outdoor events all of which were well attended and received. I am grateful to all the musicians, speakers and helpers who give so willingly of their time and expertise in support of the Library. In particular I must highlight the support given to us by Morrison’s Academy and Ardvreck School. The hire of rehearsal space, and minibuses, alongside printing. is a significant expense when staging any concert or event; both schools donate these services and in consequence we are able to keep costs to a minimum. Since 2020 FOIL has given £17,500.00 to the Library . As a result of fund- raising events and membership subscription in 2023 we were able to transfer an additional £5,000.00 to the Trustees of the Mortification making a Grand Total of £22,500.00 • Some of this year’s money will pay the guarantee of £1,400.00 for the production in mid-July by Three Inch Fools of The Comedy of Errors. • We again have supported Madertie Month by subsidising the entrance cost to the Library, this enables and encourages a broader range of people to visit, enjoy and experience at no cost. I am delighted to report that visitors to the Library in March 2024 exceeded expectation. We may have to increase our donation next year! • After further consideration The Governors agreed that the most helpful support would be if FOIL would agree to subsidise the printing and distribution of the Library’s 2024 leaflet, this will cost £2000 providing sufficient leaflets to meet the needs this year, and ensure that it is available in a wide range of tourist and visitor services and outlets. FOIL is also supporting the cost of reprinting the Library Guidebook. Working alongside Lara and her team we have, I hope, created a programme for 2024 that will appeal to all tastes. When formulating these events we have divided labours and played to strengths and interests, all the while learning from past experiences and listening to feedback from our audiences and members. The result is that we are gradually establishing a regular calendar of annual events covering every month except January. Musical events have proved very popular and last year each of them packed the Chapel. In particular the summer concerts given by the Innerpeffray Singers, Tern and the Caledonian Quartet. The Carols at Innerpeffray, also a sell-out, provided the most income. Establishing a summer season of Concerts in the Chapel is something that I have long thought would work. Appealing to the public at large and, like Three Inch Fools, bringing people to Innerpeffray who might perhaps not visit. To that end the Rosenethe Singers , based in Dunblane and regarded as one of Scotland’s best amateur Choirs, will perform a programme of ‘Music for a Summer’s Day’ on Sunday 9th June at 3.00pm. Bring a picnic, include a visit to the exhibition in the Library as well enjoying the concert. On 3rd August also at 3.00pm. Miguel Girão whom some of you will remember as the guitarist from Tern, will entertain with Fairylore, The Northern Isles & Dance Music. On Tuesday 15th October at 7.30pm in the warmth of Fowlis Wester Church we welcome figuralchor Köln conducted by Richard Mainlander. All profits from this concert will be divided between Mid Strathearn Churches and FOIL. Rehearsal facilities and transport for the Choir provided by Ardvreck School. On Saturday 28th September at 2.00pm Innerpeffray will host the launch of Sue Lawrence’s next cookery book. Several of the recipes in this book are reworked from those of Mrs MacIver whose book so inspired Sue during her visit to Innerpeffray, the talk will be followed by a book signing in the Library. The Ted Powell lecture will also be held in October. The Christmas Fayre in November will be followed closely by three performances of ‘Carols at Innerpeffray’ Full details of all these events will be sent to Members and all tickets will be available to book on the Library website. Behind the scenes the Friends Committee has been working very hard to bring membership records and the constitution up to date . The new Constitution of FOIL came into being on 10th March 2024 this can be viewed on the Friends section of the Library website. The updates mostly acknowledge the use of electronic communication to members and for meetings; we have also increased the number of members on the Committee; the categories of membership have been itemised and some irregularities brought into line. I would particularly like to thank Martyn Wade for his guidance, support and advice. As well as a variety of members and friends who proof read and corrected! Being a member of FOIL presents good value for money; apart from free admission to the Library whenever you wish, this year we will offer two bookable tours with the Keeper of Books and attendance at the Ted Powell lecture in October for no cost. I wish to highlight some points again.

 • You can pay annually using the Library website. This is then forwarded to our Membership Secretary, Iain Gilmour, who will contact you with further details

 • You can leave a cheque at the Library or post it to our Membership Secretary using the Library address.

• You can pay by Standing order – again contact Iain – who will provide all the details needed

• Any queries you can contact us using the email: friends@innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk

We try to remind you of annual renewal and generally speaking if you are not sure Iain will be able to give an answer. Paying your membership subscription provides the bedrock of our donation to the Governors please check how you pay, if you have updated payment and if this is the best way for you and for us. We are always pleased to welcome new Friends and very sad to lose old members of FOIL. Over the last few months three valued members of the Innerpeffray Community have died. Bobby Donaldson, one of the founding members, who in the very first AGM minutes was thanked for his practical contribution to the running of FOIL. I’m delighted to say that his family continue this legacy of ‘practical contribution’ to FOIL Kenneth Graham was a familiar figure at Innerpeffray events. A huge supporter of the Library he was a Governor for several years and provided much wise counsel. Latterly when I saw him at Muthill Church after he had moved to Wardside his first remark in our conversations was to ask about Innerpeffray, what was happening and was it well supported. He was delighted when I replied in the affirmative Then, in March, Martin Boyle died, one of the most generous of men, a man of culture and humour. So well-travelled and informed he was always one of the first people to visit an exhibition at the Library. He was an Innerpeffray Singer, an encourager, a supporter, a listener and an educator. Thank you to these three special men for all you have given to the Friends of Innerpeffray Library I am most grateful to my committee who are incredibly supportive to me in my role as Convenor. Thank you to Barbara, Iain, Kirsty, Pamela and Shona and in particular Charles who is retiring from the Committee this year. We will miss you Charles. Huge thanks are also due to Lara Haggerty, the Keeper of Books at Innerpeffray and her assistant Naomi Harvey. It is always a pleasure to visit them and bounce ideas, erect staging and discuss possibilities. Thank you Lara and Naomi we are indebted to you. Because of the support given by the Friends of Innerpeffray Library, the Trustees, the Volunteers and The Keeper of Books Innerpeffray Library continues to thrive and move forward. It is important that the Library community works closely together to promote what we all know to be something very special. It is important that we promote a living Library and guarantee the legacy of Innerpeffray.

Joan Taylor, Convenor, April 2024

1. Membership Secretary Update

Membership numbers continue to hold up. 375 memberships (individual, joint and family) involving 479 people (it will be more as we do not always have details of all children in a family membership). This is up from 463 last year.

Communication is almost entirely by email now, apart from the initial welcome letter we send to members – this includes a physical membership card, which is why it is sent by post. Postal costs are becoming prohibitive. We have email addresses for 91% of our membership, up from 89% last year. People do change their email addresses from time to time, as well as postal addresses, and so this needs continual updating. At the end of the day we depend on our members to keep us informed of the changes eg change of address, email address, phone number, name etc or membership category. An issue we have here is where a family membership becomes a joint membership when the kids have flown the nest and so the subscription should be less. We cannot know the amount of these things and, due to GDPR considerations, cannot accept information except from the ‘data subject’ themselves or their official representative. This will be better handled by our new membership system which will enable members to securely update their own details. We had hoped this would be in place by now. However, even with this, there are some aspects that need members to contact us direct, so I ask all members to keep us posted when something changes.

Inevitably we lose a few members each year but generally members remain loyal for several, often many years which means that regular payments are made.

Some regular donors also decide to convert to lifetime members and pay the single amount. If this is something a member is considering, I would encourage you to do so while young: it represents better value. Joking aside it is not uncommon for life members to continue to give regularly on an annual or ad hoc basis even although there is no longer a need to do so in terms of their membership.

Standing Order via a bank account is our preferred method payment for ongoing subscriptions. This costs us nothing to run and avoids members having to remember to renew. The main downside of Standing Orders, unlike Direct Debits, is that the amounts will not change automatically when subscription amounts change. We cannot currently support Direct Debits, doing so would involve additional servicing and transaction costs. This means that we need the members to amend their Standing Order amount whenever we change our subscription levels. Fortunately, this doesn’t happen very often but it can result in some members continuing to pay the wrong amount. This continues to be a problem but we are in the process of contacting such members to ask them to update their Standing Order amounts. So, my plea to all members is, if you are paying by Standing Order, please check that this is set up to reflect the current level of subscription ie individual £25, joint £40, family £50. If that is not what you are paying then please amend your Standing Order. Please remember that all members are very welcome to keep in touch with the committee by calling or emailing.

Iain Gilmour, Membership Secretary, April 2024

1. Accounts for the year to 31 December 2023 and Independent Examiner’s Report

Treasurer’s report for the year to December 2023

The financial position of Friends of Innerpeffray Library for the year to December 2023 is shown in the following accounts which have been Independently Examined by Frank Strang, and are considered satisfactory.

I would like to thank Frank Strang for his time and effort in guiding me through my first year as Treasurer.

2023 was our first year post Covid where we were able to host a varied programme of talks and events, these were very well supported by members old and new.

As at the year-end the bank balance was a positive £8593.71 of which we committed to donate £5,000 to the Innerpeffray Mortification Trust.The Convenor has detailed the allocation of this expenditure.

This year’s donation once again places emphasis on how important our combination of membership subscriptions and activities are in maintaining a steady source of funding for the Library. I would urge all members, in order to further supplement our ability to gift funds to the Library, to ensure that a signed Gift Aid Form is given to either myself or our Membership Secretary if this is something you are able to do.

To end, I would like to thank John Mauchline, our outgoing Treasurer and valued Committee Member for his many years of loyal support to the Friends of Innerpeffray Library and his steady guidance and help in our transition between Treasurers.

Shona McLaren, Treasurer, April 2024

Proposal of Acceptance of Accounts: John Mauchline

Seconded: Iain Gilmour

1. Appointment of Frank Strang as Independent Examiner for the year to 31 December 2024

Proposed: Lara Haggerty

Seconded: David Ramsay

1. Appointment and Election of Office Bearers

Convenor: Joan Taylor has indicated her willingness to stand for re appointment as Convenor – agreed by the meeting

Kirsty Macdonald has indicated her willingness to stand for re appointment as Hon Secretary – agreed by the meeting

Shona McLaren has indicated her willingness to stand for re appointment as Hon Treasurer – agreed by the meeting

1. Appointment of Committee

Charles Crookshank is retiring from the Committee.

Iain Gilmour, Pamela Haggart and Barbara McGarva have all indicated their willingness to stand for re appointment as members of the committee.

Proposed – John Mauchline

Seconded – Gillian Wade

Fiona Wilkes and John Davidson have been nominated in advance of the AGM to join the committee.

Proposed – Pamela Haggart

Seconded – Shona McLaren

1. Any Other Competent Business

Vote of thanks to Lara and Naomi – Joan thanked Lara, the Keeper of Books and Naomi her assistant for all their help and support of FOIL throughout the year and for all they do to help things run smoothly and for many a laugh.

**Presentation to John Mauchline**

Joan thanked John for his 10 years to service to the committee and Friends of Innerpeffray Library. Over the years he has been a fantastic treasurer and even more fantastic committee member. He has given of his time and can be relied on to just get on with the job – any job from parking cars to shifting boxes to pouring wine – the list goes on! Over the years if something contentious has arisen John’s was the voice of reason and balance in his quiet way which is a very very important skill that we have all benefitted from. Thank you John.

Charles Crookshank gave the vote of thanks and closed the meeting.