**Friends of Innerpeffray Library**

**Founded 1993 Scottish Charity SC 023545**

**Thirty Second Annual General Meeting**

**9 April 2025**

**Schoolroom, Innerpeffray Library**

Joan Taylor, Convenor, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Friends of Innerpeffray Library (FOIL) received the following apologies: Martin Wade, Jean Ann Scott Miller, Frank Thomson, Simon Pengelly, Barbara McGarva, Julia Brown, Morag Donaldson.

All those present signed the attendance book.

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

There were no matters arising.

Minutes Proposed By: David Ramsay

Seconded By: Fiona Wilkes

1. Report of the Committee for the year to 31 December 2024

Convenor’s Report for the year to 31st December 2024

In 2024 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 once again by Morrison’s Academy and Ardvreck School enabling us to keep costs to a minimum.

As a result of fund-raising events and membership subscription in 2023 we will transfer £4,000.00 to the Trustees of the Mortification

* Some of this year’s money will pay the guarantee for the production in mid-July by **Three Inch Fools** of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
* 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 2025 yet again exceeded expectation. We may have to increase our donation next year!
* We will also sponsor the Festival of Reading in September
* You will hear from our Treasurer that we have a healthy sum of money in the FOIL coffers. The Library Trustees have submitted Plans for further enhancement of the Library site; in light of this the FOIL committee decided to retain some of the sum fundraised last year in order to have money available should we find a part of the project that would benefit from our financial support.

Working alongside Lara and her team we have, I hope, created a programme for 2025 that will appeal to all tastes and pockets. 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.

Naomi has also created an events form which makes it very clear what is happening, how it is happening and when it is happening. In particular this is a great *pro forma* for annual events. This year’s programme can be viewed in full on the Library website.

I am most grateful to my committee who are incredibly supportive to me in my role as Convenor. Thank you to Barbara, Fiona, Iain, John, Julia, Kirsty and Shona and in particular Pamela who is retiring from the Committee this year.

Pamela’s mother, Lucie Thomson, founded FOIL in 1993 but the link to Innerpeffray goes much further back with familial connection to the Faichney Stone, now housed in the Chapel. Pamela understands Innerpeffray, if you like it is in her DNA. I believe that a personal connection to the Library and all it stands for is important and helpful when promoting the Friends and therefore the Library. We will miss her input on the committee, always full of ideas, excellent connections and the voice of reason Pamela thank you from us all.

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.

FOIL also plays an important role in the events committee chaired by Mortification Trustee Sass McDonald. We are encouraged by the increased collaboration with the Governors who I believe understand the importance and support of the Friends – Given all that is happening in the world and the new ‘normal’ as subscribed by the President of America it is an old truth that places like Innerpeffray Library will be under even more financial pressure. It is therefore important that we underline the importance and encourage the support of this very special place and that we promote a living Library and guarantee the legacy of Innerpeffray.

Joan Taylor,Convenor, Friends of Innerpeffray Library, April 2025

1. Presentation to Pamela Haggart

Joan Taylor presented Pamela Haggart with a token of FOIL’s appreciation for all her work over many years.

1. Membership Secretary Update

Membership numbers continue to hold up well with 388 memberships (individual, joint and family) involving 494 people. This is up from 479 last year.

Communication is almost entirely by email and we have email addresses for 93% of our membership, up from 91% last year.

Being a member of FOIL presents really good value for money:

* Unlimited free admission to the Library during normal opening hours whenever you wish
* This year we will offer a bookable tour with the Keeper of Books
* Attendance at the Ted Powell lecture in October for no cost

All this for £25, £40 or £50 per year. Lifetime membership is also available and represents particularly good value for our younger members – anyone under 99!

Subscription fees:

* These remain the bedrock of our fundraising, funds which in turn supports the Library
* The preferred method of payment of fees is via a regular annual Standing Order. This avoids any risk of your membership lapsing. I can provide bank details for anyone wishing to set one up.
* Or the annual fee can be paid vie e-banking using these same bank details
* Alternatively, the annual fee can be paid at the library or via the online shop on the Library website
* Cheques are still acceptable and can be sent by post for the attention of the Membership Secretary at the Library address

Gift Aid:

We are always keen that membership fees and any other donations are give under the Gift Aid scheme wherever possible. We have many supporters who do this. However, there is always a risk that personal financial situations change meaning that the Gift Aid status can also change. So, we shall be going through a process in the coming year where we shall contact all members to confirm their Gift Aid status. It would be appreciated if all members would respond to this, even if you feel that you’ve only recently signed up.

If any member wishes to discuss Gift Aid or any other aspect of their membership we can always be contacted using the email: friends@innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk

Iain Gilmour, Membership Secretary, April 2025

1. Accounts for the year to 31 December 2024

Treasurer’s report for the year to December 2024

The financial position of Friends of Innerpeffray Library for the year to December 2024 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, once again, guiding me through my year as Treasurer.

2024 held a varied programme of talks and events which were very well supported by members old and new.

As at the year-end the bank balance was a positive £10403.46 of which we committed to donate £4000.00 to the Innerpeffray Mortification Trust with a further sum being held in reserve for a special project later this year.

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 once again 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. Those of you who provided a signed copy last year, I thank you.

To end, I would like to thank all of our members for your many years of loyal support to the Friends of Innerpeffray Library and look forward to a summer of events hosted by both Friends of Innerpeffray Library, Innerpeffray Library and their volunteers and staff.

Shona McLaren, Treasurer, April 2025

Proposal of Acceptance of Accounts: Kirsty Macdonald

Seconded: Pamela Haggart

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.

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

Kirsty Macdonald is stepping down from the role of Hon Secretary. Fiona Wilkes has indicated her willingness to stand for appointment as Hon Secretary – agreed by the meeting

1. Appointment of Committee

Pamela Haggart is retiring from the committee.

Iain Gilmour, Barbara McGarva, Julia Brown, John Davidson and Kirsty Macdonald have all indicated their willingness to stand for re appointment as members of the committee.

Agreed by the meeting.

1. Any Other Competent Business

Joan Taylor reminded the meeting about upcoming FOIL events and encouraged members to support these.

27 April – Morag Brown and Lewis Powell-Reid – traditional music in the Chapel. Lewis is the grandson of the fondly-remembered Keeper of Books at Innerpeffray from 1988 to the mid 2000s

14 May – Mike Bullock OBE, Chief Executive of the Northern Lighthouse Board – The Northern Lighthouse Board: More Than Lighthouses

1 June – The White Rose of Gask – The Life and Songs of Caroline Oliphant, Lady Nairne with Freeland Barbour and Gerda Stevenson. The performance will include works from Tony Murray’s collection

Joan Taylor thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.