

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum (FOSM) Tuesday 8th June 2021 via Zoom on-line at 6:15pm

The meeting was opened at 6.15pm by the Chair, Margaret Sanderson, with 27 people present on-line.

No apologies had been received .

1. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

- (i) A few numerical errors and others were pointed out by MAE:
 - (a) Election of Committee for 202/2021 – changed to 2020/2021;
 - (b) Under Election of Committee, changed ‘proposed by Gill Mallett/Mary-Anne Enoch’ to proposed by Gill Mallett;
 - (c) Donations for the talks amounted to £405, not £450;
 - (d) The closing balances at 31/03/202, changed to 31/03/2020, were £7,487.86 (excluding Peter Friend’s Nineveh grant) in the Barclay’s current account and £22,896 in the Cambridge Building Society, giving an overall working balance of £30,384.25
 - (e) Apologies had been received from Richard and Kate Barnett;
- (ii) Richard Barnett had asked about the Friends having and hosting their own web-site; MS had asked the committee if anyone was willing to take this on to no avail – no-one having the requisite skills; MSm had given an outline of the difficulties; so MS, having asked the AGM for anyone willing to take this on, suggested that that person be co-opted onto the committee to undertake the role.
- (iii) There were no other matters arising that would not be covered under the agenda.

2. Election of Committee for 2021-2022

All standing committee members had agreed to stand again, Proposed by Dominic Davey, seconded by Margaret King and all were re-elected en-bloc with no dissensions.

3. Executive Committee: Honorary Officers and Committee Members

All members of the Executive Committee (Ex Comm) must be paid-up members of FOSM. All Honorary Officers serve as Trustees of FOSM and serve as Trustees of FOSM.

The following FOSM members were elected / re-elected:

Honorary Officers

President:	Peter Friend
Chair:	Margaret Sanderson
Vice-Chair:	Mike Tuke
Secretary:	Penny Coggill
Treasurer:	Mary-Anne Enoch
Membership Secretary:	Mike Smith

Committee Members

Gidon Bahiri	
Freya Normington	
Peter Franklin	
Carol Franklin	
Ex-Officio, Museum Director:	Liz Hide

Support Group for Executive Committee

Organisation of departmental talks / events:	Alex Liu
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4. Finance Report

1. Mary-Ann Enoch gave a visual presentation of the state of the finances, saying that the year had been a quiet one again due to the exigencies of COVID-19. The total income for this tax year was £4,222 and expenditure was £1,659, resulting in a balance of **£2563**. Expenditure included £1,432 in refunds for the 2020 Sedgwick Dinner and for the Shetlands trip.

- The subscription income (including advance payments for 2021-22) was £1,954;
- 76% of the membership dues had been paid by Standing Order; only 2% had come from cheques;
- Around 35% of members gave donations with their subscriptions, amounting to £685;
- The Zoom talks had generated £639, donated by 26 members.

2. This year's donation to the Museum had included £3,500 for the purchase of museum-grade specimen boxes for rocks, minerals and fossils, plus £1000 to support volunteers relocating the rock collection from the Atlas Building to the Forbes Building

3. The Barclay's current account balance at 31/03/2021 was £25, 303 which included monies on hold for the Shetlands trip of £4,975. the museum donation of £4,500, and Peter Friend's Nineveh Trust grant of £5,293 (that had now been transferred elsewhere in April); therefore, the working balance was **£10,535** on 31/03/2021. The Cambridge Building Society balance as of 31/03/2021 was **£12,938**.

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4. FOSM zoom talk Donations: Mary-Anne explained that these exclusive member zoom talks could help us to fund-raise for the museum, in a similar way to the charges for face-to-face talks. The committee proposed voluntary donations of:

£4 per talk OR £10 per term (3 talks), or £25 per year (9 talks). Higher donations would always be welcome!

5. Proposed changes in Membership Fees to come into effect on April 1st 2022; *Note that memberships had not been changed since 2001:*

Individual:	£15	(from £12)
Concessions (> 65 years, < 18 years):	£10	(from £8, £6)
Family:	£22	(from £18)

6. A vote was taken to accept the accounts, proposed by Mike Tuke, seconded by Margaret King, and accepted *nem con*.

A vote was taken to accept the proposed changes to the membership subscription rate, proposed by Jennifer Maddock and seconded by Mike Smith, and agreed *nem con*.

Thanks to Mary-Anne Enoch were given for keeping the finances in order.

5. Constitution

Margaret Sanderson explained that it had been found necessary to amend the constitution to keep up-to-date with the latest Data Protection legislation and regulations, as well as to up-date the modes of communication to members; a sub-committee had worked hard to re-write it, and this had been checked by J.M. and Richard Barnett and then the Committee.

The main suggested changes to the Constitution were to:

1. Reduce eight categories of membership to four;
2. Increase the age of concessionary membership from 60 to 65 and older;
3. Allow changes in membership subscription rates to be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, rather than by a majority vote at the AGM, thus allowing for greater flexibility in the financial management of the Society;
4. Permit notices to members to be sent electronically;
5. Update the statutory data protection language.

The amended version had been posted on the Museum web-site/FOSM page with the option to contact the Chair prior to the the AGM with any questions. No comments or questions having been received a resolution was put forward that the duly amended constitution be accepted. The motion to accept was proposed by Mike Smith and seconded by David Peel. A vote was taken and the motion accepted *nem con*.

6. Chair's report

When, in December, we had our last AGM we tentatively hoped that by the Summer we would be able to meet in person. Alas, it was not to be. However, thanks to the wonders of modern technology we have been able to continue with our monthly lectures. And, since the start of the 2021, what a series of lectures Alex has arranged for us - from the history of the Universe to the depths of our planet via Mary Anning, local building stones and 'The Wonderchicken'. Certainly, we have covered the breadth of the subject of Geology!

My thanks, on your behalf, must go to the Committee who have continued to work hard to keep the Friends on track. Mike [Tuke], Mary-Anne, Carol & Peter formed the sub-committee to revise and update the constitution; Gidon & Freya worked to organise the field trip; Penny has recorded our meetings and provided the minutes; Mike [Smith] has done an excellent job organising the membership and sending out the details of our talks; Mary-Anne has kept our finances in order and Alex has found the speakers. And I must not forget Liz Hide who has enabled the Zoom talks to go ahead.

And now to the future. We have a committee meeting early in the Autumn and we will discuss restarting our talks in the department – meeting first in the Watson Gallery for a catch up and a coffee [and biscuits]. Of course, the discussion is not in our hands – we await the pronouncements from HMG, the University and Department. Please be assured that we will let you know as soon as possible. However, we do hope to continue with the Zoom links – as, one of the few positives of this time, has been the ability to see [albeit on the screen] far distant Friends.

2022 should see the resumption of our popular field trips and local visits as well as the dinner and Christmas party. In the meantime, I hope to see some of you in the Museum tomorrow.

And finally, as you know Douglas Palmer has produced the History of the Friends charting its' development and some of the remarkable characters involved along the way. However, the committee would like to hear more of your stories of places visited and friends made. We will be sending out more details – so start looking out those old photographs as we will be asking for them. Have a good Summer and do take care...

Margaret Sanderson

Chair 2021

7. Museum Report

- Liz Hyde gave the report for the year for the Sedgwick Museum, starting by commenting on what a funny year it had been with repeated openings and closings due to COVID-19 and lock-downs. The first opening of 14 weeks had seen 1500 visitors, about 1% of annual throughput, so times had been challenging but there was a lot of goodwill and the shop had done well. The second period of opening had been of 3 days a week with all visits booked in advance, resulting in their begin fully booked over the half-term week, when the folding chairs had come in very useful.
- Any public engagement had been mainly digital, and for download, and the contribution to the new Cambridge Festival had also been digital, as had their involvement in the ChYpPS programme for the City Council.
- COVID-19 had delayed the Collections Move, but funding of £90k from the Arts Council and a sum from the CU Recovery Fund had been secured that allowed her to have a small team to move the items through faster – these were temporary staff who were helped by two university volunteers.
- Emma Turvey had been appointed as the replacement Archivist.
- They were hoping to put on tours again over the summer; and a 25minute film of behind the scenes had been made and would shortly be shared with the Friends.

Margaret Sanderson thanked Liz heartily for keeping the boat afloat in such choppy waters

8. AOB

Mike Smith reported that he had been informed by Steve Turton of the death of Muriel Arbur who had been president for three years at the beginning of the Society; our condolences would be sent via Steve Turton and Peter Friend.

There being no other business,

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Penny Coggill

Minute Secretary