

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum (FOSM) Tuesday 21st June 2022 via Zoom on-line at 6:15pm and in Tilley Lecture Room

The meeting was opened at 6.15pm by the Vice-Chair, Mike Tuke, in the absence of Margaret Sanderson through illness, with 10 people present on-line. And x I person.

Apologies had been received from Margaret Sanderson, Gidon and Freya Normington.

1. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

All matters arising from the AGM held on 8th June 2021 had been resolved.

2. Election of Committee for 2021-2022

All standing committee members had agreed to stand again, Proposed by Gillian Mallett, seconded by Margaret Gee and all were re-elected en-bloc with no dissensions. MS had confirmed in advance that she could only remain for one more year but had been prepared to do this, and was still willing to remain as Chair if she possibly could now.

The position of Membership Secretary was still vacant, though committee members had tried to attract a volunteer to fill the role.

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:

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

4. Finance Report

Because of the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, all field trips and in-person social events were once again cancelled, although a very interesting programme of eight Zoom talks were well attended.

Income and Expenditure

The total income was £5,679, of which £1,850 is on hold for the Shetlands field trip.

- The subscription income, including advance payments for 2022-23, was £1,804.

Of

the 162 paid memberships (representing 198 members):

- 75% of the dues were paid by standing order; only 5 members paid by cheque.
- Around 40% of members included donations with their subscriptions, amounting to £566.

The Zoom talks generated £674: 18 members donated £541 (mean £30), and 5 members gave advance donations of £133 for 2022-23.

The total expenditure was £15,247. This included £5,293 which is the Nineveh grant that was awarded to Peter Friend, now transferred to his personal account, £814 in refunds for the Shetlands trip/annual dinner, and £8,900 for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 donations to the Sedgwick Museum.

Museum Donations

In 2020-21 the FOSM Committee agreed to donate £4,500 to the Museum but this was kept on hold due to the Covid-19 closure of the Museum accounts department. These funds, finally transferred in 2021-22, included £3,500 to purchase museum-grade specimen boxes for rocks, minerals and fossils and £1,000 to provide support for volunteers helping to relocate the rock collection from the Atlas Building store into the new, purpose-built Forbes building.

In 2021-22, the FOSM Committee agreed to donate £4,400 for support for two student placements in the Museum in summer 2021, however due to Covid-19 restrictions these student placements have been deferred to summer 2022.

Bank/Building Society Balances

Barclays current account: opening balance £25,303, closing balance £15,721; of this £5,500 is on hold for the Shetland trip leaving a working balance of £10,221.

Cambridge Building Society: opening balance £12,938; closing balance £12,952.

In conclusion, the FOSM finances for 2021-22 were sound. However, it should be noted that the annual Museum donation exceeds the annual income, and this cannot be sustained over the long-term.

FOSM Income & Expenditure

	1/4/21 - 31/3/22	1/4/20 - 31/3/21
Income		
Subscriptions	1,804.00	1,954.00
Donations	566.00	710.00
Talks donations	674.00	639.00
Gift Aid	770.83	628.17
Events and field trips	1,850.00	250.00
Interest received Camb Bldg Soc	14.01	41.38
Miscellaneous		
TOTAL INCOME	5,678.84	4,222.55
Expenditure		
Geologists Assoc fee/Insurance	239.94	183.94
PF Nineveh trust refund	5,293.04	
Admin, postage, stationery		43.35
Refunds: Dinner/Shetlands trip	814.00	1,432.00
Donations to Sedgwick Museum	8,900.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	15,246.98	1,659.29
BALANCE	-9,568.14	2,563.26
Donations to Museum		
Museum-grade specimen boxes	3,500.00	
Museum's collections move	1,000.00	
Two student placements	4,400.00	
Bank/Building Society Accounts: Closing Balances 31/03/2022		
Barclays Current Account		15,720.63
Cambridge Building Society		12,951.78

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 was 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

In the absence of the Chair, Margaret Sanderson, Mike Tuke gave a brief review of the year. There had been interesting and well-attended talks on zoom arranged by Dr Alex Liu:

Jan 2022 - "Blink and you'll miss them are ice ages too short to be identified in the geological record" by Dr Ben Tindall

Feb 2022 – "Exploring the colonial connections in the Sedgwick Museum" by Dr Alice Whitehead

Mar 2022 – "The Geology of the Shetland Geopark" by Robina Barton

April 2022 – "The Mars Perseverance Rover, and the search of Life on Mars" by Professor Nick Tosca

May 2022 - "The Shineton Shales – Ordovician site of exceptional preservation discovered in the Sedgwick collection" Dr Frances Dunn and Dr Luke Parry

June 2022 - "How do shells record climate records?" by Dr Oscar Branson"

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.

8. AOB

Mike Smith reported that he had been told 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