

**Abingdon Museum Friends  
AGM**

Abingdon Museum Friends Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Sue Stevens (Chair)  
Steven Purnell (Secretary)  
Peter Hallowell (Treasurer)  
Marion Evans  
Adrienne Compton-James

The meeting started at 11:10.

1. Apologies – Rosemary Barlow

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting having been duly circulated, were discussed by those present and approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Finance

The Newbury account currently contains £5,055.61, and the Lloyds account £1,400.00. The Treasurer is still chasing some members for subscriptions and to change their standing orders from Newbury to the Lloyds account. Peter is putting together a gift aid claim for 2021-22, the Secretary will send last year's Gift Aid claim to Peter to assist, as well as the links to the relevant documents on HMRC's website.

The Museum requires £561.00 in order to pay for a replacement hard drive and software for the Interactive unit. The committee agreed that this will be funded by the Museum Friends at their previous committee meeting in March 2022. The Treasurer expressed a wish to pay this via BACS instead of by Cheque, and the Secretary will discuss this with the Museum Manager on Tuesday/Wednesday whilst he is in the Museum volunteering.

4. Meetings, Talks & Outings

There are 20 places booked for the Fawley Hill Museum trip on Saturday 28th May 2022. The £10 voluntary donation per person has been collected and paid into the Lloyds account. The total of £220.00 must be paid to Fawley Hill, preferably prior to the trip.

A discussion ensued regarding talks, and it was generally agreed that regular talks are a drain on the Friends resources, especially given the low attendance in recent years (even when excluding the period of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic). The committee agreed that private viewings of exhibitions at the Museum, as well as occasional talks for specific purposes and at the AGM was likely a better way forward. The Secretary will discuss a private viewing of the Sea Dragons exhibition in July with the Museum Manager, to see if this is feasible to organise.

Judy White has a book being published this year, and the committee discussed hosting a talk/book launch event for her to advertise and sell her book to the Museum Friends. This will be organised to coincide with the start of sales, once the publication date is known.

A lively discussion on the merits of membership of The British Association of Friends of Museums occurred, after which it was decided that we will renew membership for this year on a trial basis with the goal of getting involved and attempting to see what we can

get out of our membership. The Abingdon Museum Friends have been invited to a Recruitment & Retention meeting via Zoom on 14th June at 19:00. The Secretary will endeavour to attend and take notes to see if the ideas discussed could be of help to the Friends, although given the Secretary's working hours it would be helpful if another committee member could also attend, as his attendance is not guaranteed depending on commitments at work on that day.

In order to renew membership, the Secretary requires a cheque (payable to 'BAFM') for £100 to pay for our membership 2022. The Secretary has the necessary forms and will return these with the cheque.

The Secretary raised the possibility of advertising in local publications such as the Town Crier and Round & About. The committee agreed that paying for advertisement without a specific event was unlikely to result in increased membership numbers, and instead we should look at free advertisement possibilities in the Town Crier if possible.

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be 1st – 5th June 2022. A few key dates and events are below:

2nd June – Clubs & Societies Day at Rye Farm Meadow (approx.12:00 – 16:00). The Friends should aim to be represented and raise awareness of the Museum, its collection, and the support of the Museum Friends. This can be done with displays and literature showcasing the Museum and future exhibitions (such as Marine Reptiles) as well as literature highlighting the support provided by the Museum Friends. The aim of this day would be to hand out membership leaflets and bolster our numbers. The Secretary will look into having a rolling banner designed and printed in time for the event if possible, and check to see if the Museum has any already which would be suitable. The Secretary will set up and be present throughout the day and will have some assistance for an hour or two from Stuart (Museum Assistant), any extra assistance from Friends Committee members would be appreciated. – Action Secretary

4th June – Badge-Making/Crafts in the Museum.

5th June – Bun-Throwing in the Town Square.

5. Date of Next Meeting

It was proposed that the next Abingdon Museum Friends Committee meeting be held on 18th July

Steven Purnell, Secretary, Abingdon Museum Friends, 30 May 2022