

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Herculaneum Society held on Saturday 16 October 2010 at 15.00 at the North Lecture Room, St John's College, Oxford

Present: Robert Fowler, Dirk Obbink, Nigel Wilson (Trustees), Krystyna Cech (secretary), Gillian Austin, John Bithell, Bonnie Blackburn, Lawrence Brown, Alison Carter, Geoff and Nancy Catchpole, Jacqui Cole, Revel Coles, Paul Everard, Jane Gardner, Ben Henry, Leofranc Holford-Strevens, Alicia Hollings, Charles Leigh-Smith, Joy Littlewood, Patrick Pollard, William Poole, Jean Scofield, Carol Scott, Peter Spital, Jean and Martin Taylor, Ken Walker (Members)

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were received with the following amendments: the American Philological Society Meeting should read the American Philological Association meeting (pointed out by Ben Henry). Ben Henry also raised the point that those listed as present should include members.

The accounts of the Herculaneum Society and the Friends of Herculaneum Society were presented and approved by the members.

The Trustees stepped down and were unanimously re-elected. It was reported that Roger Macfarlane has stepped down as a Trustee (of the Herculaneum Society) and a vote of thanks was proposed for all his work for the Society since its inception.

A report was presented by Robert Fowler about the recent and future activities of the Society.

- The Third Herculaneum Congress held in Ercolano in June 2010 was a great success. It was agreed that staying in Ercolano itself (not Naples) for the duration of the Congress was a good move.
- Members were asked to suggest ideas for future meetings at home or abroad. A Society visit to the British Museum to see their archives relating to Herculaneum was suggested as was a visit to a Roman site somewhere in Britain (possibly Chichester). Carol Scott made the suggestion to visit the Museum of London which holds the largest archaeological archive in Europe of Roman information.
- Robert Fowler put forward plans to reduce the Society's office hours in order to fund a dedicated fundraiser on a short term contract to boost the number of members in order to alleviate the shrinkage in funding which the Society is experiencing.
- In the past year the Society funded two scholarships jointly managed by the Herculaneum Centre based in Ercolano amounting to £2000. In the year 2010-11 it is the intention to increase the amount of funding for scholarships to £3000 and for £2000 to go to CISPE towards a research studentship and for £1000 to be reserved for an independent studentship.
- For future developments the website is crucial and to this end Mike Fowler has been designing a new website which Mike presented to the members. The website is not live but will be launched in the near future. It will have a members only area with the latest newsletter, forums for discussion, information about discounts and the possibility of sharing contact details among members. Peter Spital suggested having instructions on "How to get to Herculaneum" in the members only section so that when googled would bring the website near to the top of the list

of results. It was suggested there could be many layers to the members only section depending on permissions given by members. In due course, members will receive log-in details and passwords which they will be able to change.

- There is a very good overview of the Villa of Papyri in the latest in the latest *Indicive di Cronache Ercolanesi* (in Italian). Dirk Obbink suggested that the article should be translated and published by the Society or by another publisher.
- The *Sozomena* series has now published six titles which are bringing royalties to the Society.
- Plans for the travelling exhibition being organized in Naples and to be hosted by the BA have moved on and the exhibition is now expected to arrive in London in 2013.
- The research grant proposal being prepared by the Trustees is still being pursued and the outcome is anticipated in the coming year.
- A meeting of the American Friends of Herculaneum Society was held in January 2010. The granting of charitable status to the Society is still in progress in the US. Until this has been secured the activities of the Society cannot commence. It is hoped that both the UK and the US societies will share a website, newsletter and fund studentships.
- The Society has produced a calendar for 2011 with photographs taken by members in Herculaneum during the Third Herculaneum Congress in June 2010. The suggested donation (which can be gift-aided) for one calendar is £10 and £16 for two.