

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Herculaneum Society held on Saturday 13 October 2012 at 14.15 at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies Lecture Theatre, 66 St Giles', Oxford

Present: Robert Fowler, Nigel Wilson (Trustees), Krystyna Cech (secretary), Lawrence Brown, Kay Byers, John Bithell, Andrew Cairncross, Paul Everard, Jane Gardner, Sheena and Iona Hampson, Ben Henry, Kevin Lavery, Joy Littlewood, Ia and John McIlwaine, Patrick Pollard, William Poole, Peter Spital, Jean and Martin Taylor (Members)

The minutes of the 2011 AGM were received without amendments.

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

- A report was presented by Robert Fowler about the recent and future activities of the Society. Website improvements are now all live. These and other initiatives were suggested by Carol Scott whom the Society employed as a consultant.
- The project to translate the overview of the Villa of Papyri in the Indice of vols. 1–40 of Cronache Ercolanesi (in Italian) is still only two-thirds complete. The printed translation may be distributed at the British Museum exhibition next year.
- The British Museum is hosting an exhibition 'Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum' March – September 2013. A special event will be held there organized by the Friends of Herculaneum Society. Andrew Wallace-Hadrill and Domenico Esposito will speak at the event. An attractive flyer/membership form will be designed to be made available at the exhibition with two goals in mind, publicity about the society and boosting membership numbers.
- The plan to fund an education officer at Herculaneum targeting local and British schools has moved on since it was floated last year. The Society has received a donation of £5000 for this project which is a joint venture with the Herculaneum Centre to help alleviate recent cuts in staff levels at the Centre. The position will be funded initially for 2 years with the hope that self-funding initiatives will be put in place to make it a permanent position.
- The research grant for which the Trustees applied last year was not successful, but may be resubmitted in the future.
- The American Friends of Herculaneum Society are planning further meetings. Details will be circulated once they are available.
- A trip to Istanbul for Friends has been proposed by a private tour operator details of which were given out at the meeting. Members were asked to get in touch with the operator if interested.
- Subscriptions. The situation has arisen whereby membership fees cannot attract GiftAid. The Society does not wish to lose the very welcome income from Gift Aid so how to move forward was discussed. Three main propositions were made: have a two-track membership, part gift-aidable, part not. Ditch the benefits of membership and carry on as before. Only worry about memberships worth £100 and more and have those members sign an agreement to not accrue benefits worth more than 25% of their membership fees. The majority at the meeting were unaware that membership attracted benefits (mainly discounts with book publishers). Those at

the meeting were almost all in favour of the second option. The question will be put to the whole membership by email.

- We are still waiting for new legislation to merge the two Societies into a new style of charitable corporation (The Herculaneum Society and the Friends of Herculaneum Society whereby the former is an incorporated version of the latter). Robert Fowler undertook to investigate the option of merging the Friends into the Herculaneum Society without waiting for the new legislation.
- Richard Janko asked to stand down as Trustee in order to concentrate more on the work of the American Friends of Herculaneum Society. Richard had been a founder member of the Society since 2004. Robert Fowler proposed a vote of thanks for all his hard work. It was proposed and accepted that Kevin Lavery and Carol Ann Scott should become Trustees.
- Ben Henry suggested that the Society should test the market with respect to Accountants in order to see if there is a better price. It was agreed that this would be done

The Committee was elected. D. Delattre, R. Fowler (Chair), D. Obbink and N. Wilson stood down from the Committee and were re-elected. K. Lavery and C. Scott were elected as new members.

Independent Accountants in Scotland Ltd., 30 Queen's Gate, 95 Dowanhill Street, Dowanhill, Glasgow G12 9EQ, were re-appointed as auditors.