

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Herculaneum Society held on Saturday 19 October 2013 at 14.30 at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies Lecture Theatre, 66 St Giles', Oxford

Present: *Trustees*: Robert Fowler (Chair), Daniel Delattre, Kevin Lavery, Dirk Obbink, Carol Scott, Nigel Wilson, *Secretary* Krystyna Cech, *Members*: Gillian Austin, Bonnie Blackburn, Lawrence Brown, Kay Byers, John Bithell, Andrew Cairncross, Paul Everard, Judy Fowler, Jane Gardner, Sheena and Iona Hampson, Leofranc Holford-Strevens, Alicia Hollings, Joy Littlewood, Ia and John McIlwaine, Roger Michel, Robert Parker, Marcia and Peter Parks, Kate Starling, Jean and Martin Taylor

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were received with minor 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.
Actions from last year
- Education Officer – fundraising is ongoing for this permanent post is to be held in Ercolano. So far we have received £6000 in donations. The possibility of crowd funding is being explored in order to reach target - £30,000).
- Robert Fowler has requested Wilsons Solicitors to look into the possibility of merging the 2 societies (The Herculaneum Society and The Friends of Herculaneum Society). Wilsons will look into the pros and cons and how complicated it will be to move from two societies to one C.I.O (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). All findings will be presented to the membership at another meeting after which it will be put to the membership to decide whether to go ahead.
- The Trustees have looked into changing the Accountancy Firm we use in order to save the Society some money. They proposed a change to a Bristol-based one, Godfrey Wilson, thereby saving the Society £500/year. This was approved by the membership.

This year

- The Society has had a good year on the back of the exhibition at the British Museum with our Spring meeting taking place at there.
- Financial Statements: there has been a small improvement of £500.
- Gift Aid: CAF has been collecting Gift Aid for memberships paid online and by Direct Debit but not on cheques. This has now been rectified with the office dealing directly with HMRC. We have netted £2,500 so far this year which will show up in next year's accounts.
- Kevin Lavery proposed a new way forward for collecting Gift Aid from members. This will involve making a clear separation between memberships and donations. Gift Aid will only be collected on Benefactors and Patrons. All other memberships will not be eligible for Gift Aid meaning that we will be able to restore the benefits of membership (including all the book discounts with various publishers).

The Future

- Society's trip to Campania next year (2014). A number of possible dates were put forward: late April, late June and September. The membership will be consulted. Proposed activities to be included in the programme: a visit to the Biblioteca Nazionale, Boscoreale, Paestum, an actual archaeological site (possibly De Simone's on the north face of Vesuvius). Christopher Smith, Director of the British School in Rome, is willing to help. It was proposed we do not cram too much into one day (after last trip's day in Naples).
- The American Friends of Herculaneum is now an affiliate member of the American Philological Association and will be represented at the APA's meeting in Chicago in January 2014.
- Carol Scott proposed crowd sourcing for the translation of papyri with a big push to grow membership and the strengthening of our links with the British Museum.

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