

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Herculaneum Society held on Saturday 18 October 2014 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, Kate Starling, Nigel Wilson, *Secretary* Krystyna Cech, *Members:* Bonnie Blackburn, Sam Brooks, Kay Byers, John Bithell, Andrew Cairncross, Revel Coles, Joelle Delattre, Paul Everard, Judy Fowler, Sheena and Iona Hampson, Leofranc Holford-Strevens, Christopher Leigh-Smith, Joy Littlewood, Ia and John McIlwaine, Marcia and Peter Parks, Patrick Pollard, William Poole, Peter Spital, Kate Starling, Jean and Martin Taylor,

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were received.

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 – The plan has had to be modified due to changes in the organisation of the Centro in Ercolano. Christian Biggi will now be working in a freelance capacity. Fundraising is ongoing.
- The Accountancy Firm we use has been changed to a Bristol-based one, Godfrey Wilson, thereby saving the Society £500/year.
- Merger. The proposal is to merge the Friends of Herculaneum Society with the Herculaneum Society (reducing confusion and the necessity of producing two sets of accounts). There was informal discussion of a previously circulated paper. A SGM will be held in late January 2015 for the membership to move the merger forward and have it in place by the end of the financial year (end of April 2015). There will be an advisory committee of members for the (merged) Herculaneum Society, or the AGM could function in that capacity. A new bank account will be set up and Direct Debits will need to be changed. The Charity Commission is prepared for possible future donations to the Friends by keeping a register of merged societies.

Some members were not convinced of the advantages of a merger. A question was raised if anything had changed in the legal considerations that led to the original arrangement. Nothing has changed legally. The need for a corporate presence continues, but to combine this with a Society like the Friends has proven to be very cumbersome. Clarification was sought of the role of the advisory committee. It was suggested it would be a conduit to the Committee for members' views, and could be a vehicle for getting more people involved. The costs of the merger were discussed. A straw vote was taken and a strong majority approved.

- AOB. Members were asked to make suggestions for future events. A behind the scenes tour at the Ashmolean with a visit to the Cast Gallery was put forward. This could be combined with the Special GM in January.

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.