

THE FRIENDS OF COLCHESTER MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES.
President : The Mayor of Colchester. Registered Charity Number: 310669.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT LION WALK CHURCH, TUESDAY JUNE 18TH 2019.

1) Election of President

Patrick Denney, the Chairman, welcomed and proposed the election of our new President, the Mayor Councillor, Nick Cope. Proposed : Henry Spyvee. Seconded : Mark Davies.

2) Present and Apologies for Absence

57 members attended. Apologies were received from Austin Baines, Elisabeth Baines and Frank Hargrave.

3) Minutes of the Sixty Ninth Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Sixty Ninth AGM , having been circulated, were proposed by Ray Allan and seconded by Patrick Denney and accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

4) Matters Arising None.

5) Presentation of Accounts

The Friends of Colchester Museums accounts for 2018-9 were presented to the meeting by the Treasurer, Peter Evans. There is a healthy balance of almost £45,000, which means that subscriptions will not need to be increased. The Society has spent £15 on purchases , however, it is committed to contributing to the Adorn exhibition. The website is up and running so the only expenses for this from now on will be for the licence fee and hosting. Acceptance proposed by Peter Evans and seconded by Mark Davies. Carried.

6) Annual Report

The Chairman recalled that the lecture series had run since last September and in that time 11 speakers have been welcomed. With just one lecture to go, following the AGM, a total of 987 people have attended the lectures so far, averaging around 90 for each lecture (compared to 84 for the previous year). Added to this were the 6 afternoon lectures, which attracted 256 members - an average of about 42 for each meeting.

The 2019-20 lectures will begin on Tuesday September 3rd. In addition to the evening lectures, there will be three afternoon lectures on : September 12th, October 17th, November 14th. Thanks are especially due to Jenny Jones for once again organising these lectures. Three outings and events are planned for July 2019 : a tour of Castle Park, Chatham Dockyard and a private viewing of the Adorn exhibition.

Many thanks to Alan Skinner for managing the website. In the last year nearly 4,500 people have logged onto the website. Since opening last year, our Facebook page has gained around 250 regular followers.

Re-General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR). Thanks to all members who have completed the new data protection forms. Fifty or so members have not returned their forms. The records of those who do not return their forms will be deleted from the Society's records in the near future. Re –membership :there are currently 630 members of the Society. Finally, Patrick thanked all the Committee members for their help and assistance during the last year.

7) Election of Chairman

Patrick Denney was proposed by Philip Beeton, seconded by Kirsty McGrave and declared elected.

8) Election of Vice-Presidents

Jean Baker, Peter Berridge, Jean Blowers, Peter Constable, Mark Davies, Patrick Denney, Barbara Napper, Andrew Phillips, Paul Spendlove were proposed by Mrs Blackett-Johnson, seconded by Owen Hay and duly re-elected.

9) Election of Treasurer

Peter Evans was proposed by Roy Anderson, seconded by William Joliffe and approved.

10) Election of Secretary

Janet Fulford has officially retired as Secretary. Patrick Denney proposed and Peter Evans seconded Mary Dale as Secretary. This was approved.

11) Election of Membership Secretary.

Patrick Denney is retiring as Membership Secretary. Roy Anderson was proposed by Jenny Jones and seconded by Philip Beeton for the post. This was carried by the meeting.

12) Election of Newsletter Editor

Ian Ahmet was proposed by William Joliffe and seconded by Peter Evans and approved.

13) Election of Committee

Anne Larkin proposed, seconded by Ray Allan, that Harry Carlo, Mary Dale, Chris Hall, Jenny Jones, Peter Jones, Avril Lankester, Andrew Millar, Andrew Phillips and Mark Davies are re-elected. This was agreed by the meeting.

14) Election of Honorary Auditor

Roy Anderson was proposed by Patrick Denney and seconded by Jenny Jones and agreed by the meeting.

15) Data Protection Act This was covered in the Chairman's Report.

16) Museum Report.

Tom Hodgson, Colchester Museums Manager, delivered the report.

It has been a good year with 66,000 visitors to the Castle. 21,572 children and students - the highest figure since the year 2000.

Over 14,000 people visited Hollytrees. Just under 26,000 people visited the Natural History Museum. Once a month the Castle has an Autism friendly hour, with the Castle opening an hour earlier than normal to welcome visitors, especially those with autism. It is the second year of Arts Council Funding, of £200,000 p.a. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant allows for 4 trainees per year in Ipswich and Colchester Museums. A couple of years ago, a grant was received from the Ellerman Fund for work with the Natural History collections. The first phase is coming to an end of moving 100,000 plus records into a new Content Management System. Since the re-opening of the Castle following its re-development in 2014, there have only been small exhibitions, This is set to change with the opening of the Adorn exhibition on July 27th. Tom has worked for the Museum service for nearly 25 years. He is retiring in September. Over his years in post, he has very much appreciated the support of The Friends of Colchester Museums.