

Orkney Archaeology Society
Annual General Meeting – via Zoom
28 October 2020

Present

75 people

Apologies

None received.

Announcements

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting, and it was noted that whilst it had been some 18 months since our last AGM this was due to the Covid19 pandemic and was allowable by OSCR. Also noted that the meeting was taking place virtually which was unusual but did allow for attendance from anywhere in the world.

Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2019 were reviewed and agreed with no amendments.

Update from the Chair

Martin started by announcing that, after 10 years on the Board, he was starting down both as Chair and as a Board member. He said that it had been a fabulous time but he felt it was time now to stand down. Martin then gave a presentation on the highlights for OAS over the last 18 months.

It was noted that there had been lots of very positive activity, with the usual round of public events and talks, involvement in community archaeology and several archaeology projects supported through grant aid. As always, this came down to the hard work of the Board and all volunteers and they were all thanked for their continued support for archaeology in Orkney.

Of course, the excavation season in Summer 2020 had been hugely impacted by the pandemic and, as things stands, its still very hard to know what impact there will be for 2021. All site directors are planning but still within quite a vacuum. But what we do know is that everyone's commitment to archaeology here in Orkney remains as strong as ever.

Update from the Secretary

Hayley presented the written report which will be sent to OSCR, as the Trustees Annual Report. Changes in the Board over the last 12 months were noted. Of particular note has been the St Magnus Graffiti Project, which we have been funded from the HLF and which started 18 months ago. It is a very exciting project and we have over 70 volunteers who have been trained by UHI Archaeology Institute in how to record the graffiti in the cathedral. We should have finished the project by now but since lockdown it has not been possible to complete the recording, and Dr Antonia Thomas will now be able to work on this, together with Fran Flett Hollinrake, the cathedral custodian. We have kept the Historic Lottery Fund up to date with the delays and they are happy with the situation. We are now

thinking about a possible 2nd application for funding to complete the upper levels and produce a more detailed book rather than the pamphlet which has already been funded.

The most significant impact this summer around the lack of excavations has been not being able to run our shop, which has had a serious impact on our fundraising activity. We have added significantly more stock to our on-line shop and this has worked well but despite best efforts of everyone, and especially Angela who runs the on-line shop, we are not able to achieve anything like the same level of income. However, being positive about the prospects of 2021 we do now have good stock levels of excellent goods that will sell well in the shop and we will be having a push on sales on-line in the run up to Christmas.

Treasurer's report and Adoption of the Accounts

The accounts were available in the meeting and agreed without comment. Noted that all expenditure has been as OAS SCIO, not OAS.

Review of membership and subscriptions

The Membership report was presented by Anna Gudge, and agreed by the AGM.

Election of Trustees to the Board of the Society

The current Board members stood down as per the constitution. The following were then elected;

The Board will meet after the AGM to agree the officer positions. For the minutes, the Board Trustees are Hayley Green, George Vickers, Anna Gudge, Mark Newton, David Drever, Colin Richards, Kath Page, Julie Cassidy, Moira Parker, Ragnhild Ljosland, Kaila Shepherd, Collen Batey and Kevin Kerr. This leaves 2 vacancies, who may be co-opted onto the Board at any time.

Resolutions

None notified

Any Other AGM Business

None.

Finally

Thanks to be noted to all Board members who had retired during the year, but a very special thanks to Martin who has been a stalwart of the Board for 10 years and excellent Chair, His contributions to the Board will be much missed but the Board was very pleased that he has agreed to remain a member of the Grants Committee.

Meeting closed at 19.40,

The AGM was then followed by a talk from Caroline Wickham-Jones on "A Personal View of the Extraordinary Archaeology of Orkney" and an excellent discussion followed. This talk and discussion was recorded and is available on the OAS You Tube Channel, The evening finished with thanks to Caroline for her excellent and thought provoking discussion and a

thanks to everyone who had attended this unusual, virtual AGM, and made it such a good evening.
