

The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2016 in the Centre for Research Collections, University of Edinburgh.

Present: Pam Jackson(Chair), Dianne Fraser(Hon Treasurer),Paula Allison(Hon Secretary), Veronica Bailey, Lord and Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Tony Carter, Rosemary Carter, Gill French, Roger French, David Gerrard, Willie Hendry, Martin Hillman, David Jenkins, John Kitchen, Jacky MacBeath, Darryl Martin, Arnold Myers, Jenny Nex, Jean Starr, Ian Stirling, Erica Schwarz, Claudine Tait, Jim Tait, Bryan Wade, Dorothy Wright.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted with pleasure that next year the AGM would once again be held in St Cecilia's Hall. The Chair was delighted to report that the Friends had acquired several new members in 2016, including Helen Archer, Carola Bronte –Stewart, Carlos Canatala, Anthony Carter, Henrietta Hales, Prof Gordon Kirk, Graeme Lyall, Erica Schwarz, Nicholas Uglow and Jennifer Webb.

Apologies for absence were received from: Helen Archer, Sheila Barnes, Malcolm Bateson Ann Bond, Carola Bronte-Stewart, Pat Cox, Edward Dewhurst, Chris Judson, David Kimbell, Dorothy Leeming, Nicola MacRae, Charles Mould, Dawn and Simon Muirhead, Pat and Charles Napier, Carol Neeving, Peter Onslow, Esther Reid, Elly Smith, Lissa Smith, Richard de Sodenhoff, Anne Stirling-Whyte, Heather Stubbs, Rob van Haarlem, Peter Verity, Lance Whitehead, Paula Woods.

The Chairman noted that many of those sending apologies had also sent warm messages of approval and encouragement with regard to the refurbishment of St Cecilia's. Rob van Haarlem, from the Dutch Clavichord Society hoped that he might visit the renovated Hall next year and invited Friends to visit the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

The **deaths** of Professor Peter Williams, Isobel Lodge and Rudolph Sprintz were announced. Condolences to their families and friends were expressed.

2. The Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting were approved.

(proposer : A. Myers; seconder: J. Kitchen).

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

A. The Redevelopment Project : Jacky MacBeath, Head of the Project ,gave a report on progress to date. She informed the meeting of the following:

- St Cecilia's Hall was now a windproof and watertight building .

- The hall was due to be handed over to the University at the end of January/beginning of February at which time tours of the building for Friends would be arranged.
- A design from the Coston harpsichord soundboard had been used as a motif imprinted in concrete and in vinyl surfaces throughout the hall. The concert hall had been decorated and the seating structure put in place.
- The hall was expected to re-open in April when the entire collection of musical

instruments would be on display to the public for the first time. J.

MacB. acknowledged the huge amount of work undertaken by the curatorial staff in ensuring that all 350 instruments were properly displayed.

- In future, St. Cecilia's would be open Tuesday- Saturday , from 10a.m. till 5p.m. Negotiations were continuing over programming for public and twilight slots. Under the new configuration, more than one event could be held at the same time in the building.
- A new post of Museum Services Manager had been created . The appointee, due to take up the position in January, would run all events in St. Cecilia's and would work closely with the curatorial staff.
- The Activity plan whereby St Cecilia's forged links with schools, in particular Broughton High and St Mary's, the Canongate and other outreach partners had continued throughout the closure and refurbishment project.

J. MacB concluded her report by recording her thanks for the moral and financial support given to the redevelopment project and in particular for the £25,000 donated by the Friends for the new Teaching Lab at St. Cecilia's. She confirmed that acknowledgement of this gift would be prominently displayed in the new lab. She also warmly recommended the Directory of Collections, the first ever A-Z of Edinburgh University collections, to be published on St Andrew's Day for £14.95 and on sale in St Cecilia's when it re-opens.

In answer to a question from the floor, J.MacB revealed that a £2.1 million gap remained in the funding for St Cecilia's.

b. Appointment of new Treasurer.

The Chair announced, with great pleasure, that Andrew Mackie had agreed to stand for this post. D.F. proposed and P.A. seconded the motion that A.M. be elected Treasurer. The meeting approved the appointment unanimously.

c. Fringe concerts 2016/2017

P.J. announced that the 2016 series of Fringe concerts had been very well received and had had good audience numbers. The dates of the 2017 series had been established as follows: 9th, 12th, 16th, 19th, and 23rd August.

4. Chairman's Report.

Presenting her previously circulated report, Pam Jackson alluded to several highlights from the past year which she felt would be pleasing to the Friends. She was delighted to announce that the organ had been fully restored and would be re-installed in the concert hall in time for the re-opening.

P.J. expressed her admiration for the professionalism and taste which Erica Schwarz had brought to the layout of *Soundboard*. However, she emphasised that still more help was needed in Publications and anyone interested should contact either P.J. or M.H.

P.J. reflected that the successful illustrated talk given by herself and M.H. to the Colinton Literary Society had been arranged by the late, and greatly missed, Isobel Lodge.

Turning to Bursary holders, past and present, P.J. announced that the Kellie Consort had given a fine concert in St Giles in April. She also wished to congratulate, on behalf of the Friends, Anne Marie Klein on her marriage in May to Nicholas Uglow. She drew attention to the fine development of Louise Alder's operatic career, and in particular her much lauded appearance at the 2016 Festival, substituting for Danielle de Niese in a Queen's Hall recital of Handel arias with the Dunedin Consort.

P.J. noted approvingly the creative partnership between Dr Anne Desler and John Kitchen shown in their admired contributions to the University Concert Series. P.J. went on to inform the meeting that A.D. had requested assistance from the Friends in contributing towards the purchase of modern copies of baroque instruments, especially string and woodwind, which could be loaned out to students for practice. P.J. suggested to the meeting that the purchase of these instruments should become one of the fundraising projects of the Friends.

Lastly, P.J. recorded the Committee's unease over a perceived drift of bursary applications away from instruments towards choral groups. She therefore proposed the adoption of minor changes to the Bursary Regulations which would be displayed on the Friends website and publicised to university music departments and conservatoires. The proposed changes were unanimously approved by the meeting.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the committee, curators and conservator for all their help and hard work through the year.

5. Treasurer's Report.

Dianne Fraser recorded her pleasure in finally relinquishing her role as treasurer and in welcoming Andrew Mackie to the post.

Presenting her final Treasurer's report, D.F. noted that current membership numbers totalled 188 (9 Honorary members, 108 Life members, 70 Ordinary members) and that 16 new members had joined the Friends over the year.

D.F. was pleased to announce that 6 Bursaries had been awarded to: N. Fletcher, E. Dewhirst, J Westwell, J. S-M Bouquet, The Kellie Consort, and C. Bendall. D.F. reminded the meeting that the Bursary Fund was regularly depleted and encouraged Friends to donate to that fund at any time.

D.F. recorded that the second concert for the Organ restoration fund held at Ballencrieff Castle had been very successful. She reported that the Organ donation fund stood at £10,420 to which an extra £802 in gift aid would be added. Goetze and Gwynne had been paid £13,296 in total . She advised that a further invoice for the return and extra storage of the organ might need to be paid.

Friends' general funds had been much reduced owing to the grant of £25,000 made to the university for a named Teaching Lab in the refurbished St Cecilia's Hall. She therefore urged a redoubling of effort in future fundraising ventures. She noted that as the cheque had not been cashed during the financial year 2015/2016 , it would appear in next year's accounts. She confirmed that there would be an inscribed glass panel recognising the gift.

D. F. reported that the 2016 Festival Fringe concerts had been well attended but because of the cost of hiring St Andrew's and St George's they had run at a small loss. She gave grateful thanks to Willie Hendry not only for the loan of the harpsichords but also for tuning the instruments free of charge. D.F. acknowledged that moving back to the Hall might mean slightly smaller audiences but it was pointed out by J.MacB from the floor that St Cecilia's would be much better marketed by the university after the opening which would probably make up for losing the central location of St Andrew's and St George's.

The Chairman expressed thanks to D.F. on behalf of the committee, Friends, curators and the St Cecilia's Hall Museum Development team and presented her with flowers and a monetary token of appreciation for her many years of willing service.

P.J. could not confirm who would be the examiner of accounts for next year but would publish the name in the next edition of *Soundboard*.

7. Curators' Report.

Presenting the annual report (previously circulated), D.M. acknowledged that once again the year had been dominated by the redevelopment of St Cecilia's Hall but that it had also been a year filled with exciting projects, teaching, research and cultural programming. He emphasised to the meeting that the instruments from the collection had been professionally wrapped in humidity- safe fabric and stored carefully to ensure their complete safety.

D.M. reported that a well- received display of Tudor and Stuart instruments from the collection had been displayed in the 6th Floor Display Wall at the University

Main Library and that, furthermore, a number of instruments from the collection had been specially recorded in partnership with musicians both from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and from Edinburgh College.

D.M. announced that St Cecilia's had been chosen as the Edinburgh venue for the celebration of Scotland in Seven, a project which highlighted the seven UNESCO World Heritage sites in Scotland and that on World Heritage Day, 18th April 2017, St Cecilia's would host a light- hearted musical event called "Old vs New Town Battle of the Bands".

Looking back over a particularly busy and productive year for the staff at St Cecilia's , D. M. wished to celebrate particularly Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet on being awarded the prize for the best student paper at the conference of the American Musical Instrument Society in Vermillion SD and Dr Jenny Nex who, with Dr Lance Whitehead , received the Densmore award from the Society for the best journal article for a paper published in the Galpin Society Journal in 2014. The Curator's report was appreciatively received.

8 . Publications Report.

Presenting his previously circulated report, Martin Hillman observed that the previous year had seen little change, with publications still based in the Reid Museum basement and continuing to sell a reasonable number of drawings as well as some CDs at the Fringe concerts.

M.H. expressed his sincere thanks to David Jenkins for all his help with publications but noted that David would certainly be looking for help after M.H. resigned at the 2017 AGM. M.H. invited anyone interested to contact either himself or the chairman. M.H. also expressed his pleasure at the beautifully presented *Soundboard* which illustrated the layout skills of Erica Schwarz . M.H. looked forward very much to moving back into St Cecilia's Hall , at which point he anticipated increased sales. Items for sale would include a new book written by himself entitled *Mr Sanderson's Incidents*, a history of the Edinburgh Musical Society in the 18th century.

9. Date of next Annual General Meeting

Saturday, November 18th, 2017 (provisional)

10. Any Other Business.

In answer to a question from the floor, J.MacB said there would be two strands to the selling of merchandise: Friends would continue to sell their drawings, CDs and books while the museum shop would sell its own differentiated stock.

J.K. announced that he and Moira Landels were planning three Syptert concerts in May/June. One concert would feature a trombonist playing 17thcentury instruments whom J.K. would accompany on the organ.

P.J. shared her hopes that the Friends would extend their concert opportunities possibly involving Anne Desler's students, when the Hall re-opens . She envisaged the use of various historic instruments, not only keyboards.

J.MacB said she would be unable to give a date for the formal re-opening of the Hall until after Christmas.

The business meeting ended at 4 pm and was followed by a delightful recital from the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book and the Dublin Virginal Manuscript given by David Gerrard on his own reconstruction of a 1560s English Virginal, sounding a fourth above" normal" pitch.