

THE FRIENDS OF ST CECILIA'S HALL AND MUSEUM

Annual General Meeting held in St Cecilia's Hall
On Saturday 18th November 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

In attendance: Andrew Mackie (Treasurer), Dorothy Wright (Secretary), James Tate, Claudine Tate, Richard de Soldenhoff, Christopher Kelnar, Carola Bronte- Stewart (Committee member), Graeme Lyall (Committee member), James Tweddle, Arnold Myers (Committee member), Luke Whitlock (Pam Jackson scholarship recipient), Jenny Nex (Curator & Committee member), Peng Lee Yap, Anne Yap, Jean Allen, Nigel Griffiths, Sally Griffiths

Welcome

Andrew Mackie (chair of this meeting), welcomed all those in attendance and confirmed the meeting was quorate (at least 10 members in attendance).

Apologies for absence

Eleanor Smith (Committee member), John Kitchen (Committee member), Martin Hillman, David Jenkins, Paula Woods, Andrew Keener, John Marston, Francoise Robinson, Christopher Field, Helen Mackie, Peter Shwartz, Anne Stirling-Whyte, Kate Quartano Brown, Erica Schwarz, Peter Onslow, David Gerrard, David Kimbell, Douglas Clark

Minutes of the AGM 2022

The minutes were proposed by Carola Bronte Stewart and seconded by Jean Allen. The minutes were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the following amendments-correction of the spelling of Kelnar and Twaddle and the correct referencing to the availability of thirty day accounts.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes, with any relevant issues covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Annual Report

Andrew Mackie (Treasurer) advised he would chair the meeting in the absence of Dr Eleanor Smith (currently residing and working in Sweden). Andrew thanked the Committee of the Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum for their contribution and hard work on behalf of the Friends over the last 12 months and for their contribution to compiling the Annual Report.

Andrew Mackie advised that over the last 12 months, there had been an opening up post covid with the mounting of additional members' events. The first was a talk given by Martin Hillman on his book Mr Sandersons Incidents etc which gives a fascinating insight into the Hall over the period 1727-1801 (followed by a Q&A). The second event was a brief talk by John

Kitchen followed by a tour of the collection and impromptu performance on a selection of instruments.

The first event of 2023/2024 had also taken place, with a talk by Professor Kelnar (Committee member and volunteer) giving an overview of the a small insight into the outputs from his research. This was a very interesting, illustrated talks with some very amusing insights to take away.

All events were followed by a social drink and conversation. Andrew Mackie said the Committee were interested in expanding membership of the Friends. The Committee had also sought to build links with the other University Friends Group which is likely to require more work to deliver results.

From the floor it was suggested that asking a member to invite three personal friends to events had the potential for some to join as Friends. Andrew Mackie thanked the meeting for their suggestions and the on-going support of the Friends. Any ideas for events would be very welcome.

Andrew Mackie referenced the importance our publications work. The allocation some of our funds to this activity allows this work to continue. This is an area the Committee want to develop further.

The Friends supported the annual Syptert series of concerts which had gone well. For the 2023 Edinburgh International Festival, the Friends organised five Fringe Concerts (3 in 2022) with excellent attendance.

As reported to the 2022 Annual General Meeting, the Committee had been delighted to contribute to the purchase by the University of Edinburgh of a rare 1640 lute manuscript with the possibility of more developments in relation to the manuscript in 2024.

In relation to the Pam Jackson scholarship there had been very positive developments which would be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

The Bursary Committee considered a number of applications (5 in total). The standard was very high, with the applications being very much worthy of support, meeting the criteria set.

Andrew Mackie advised the meeting that the disbursement of Bursary Funds was a key part of the work of the Friends. Andrew Mackie reported that bursary funds were however diminishing hence the launching of an appeal for support. Donations would be very welcome to allow this important aspect of our work to continue.

Andrew Mackie reported that in addition to the appeal, other ideas were being considered including predicating funds from one of the Fringe Concerts as being support of the Bursary fund. Other sources of funding will be needed to deliver a regular income.

There were no questions on the Annual Report.

Curatorial Report

Andrew Mackie thanked Dr Jenny Nex, Curator for all her work and team in support of the Hall and Museum and the Friends. Dr Nex addressed the meeting in support of the Curator's Report.

The range of activities by the curatorial team, include teaching, research, community engagement, dementia socials and instrument purchase. Over the course of this year, the team had been working with Sabina Klaus a world expert on keyboards and brass instruments. This could be the subject of a presentation in the future.

Dr Nex thanked the Friends for all their support over the course of the year. There were no questions of the Curatorial Report.

Committee

Andrew Mackie advised the meeting that there was a vacancy for the Chair of the Friends Committee. He explained that while Dr Smith continued to chair the meetings and was doing an excellent job, she lived and worked in Sweden and her chairing could only be regarded as a 'stop gap'. To date a chair had not been identified and Andrew Mackie asked the meeting if everyone could think carefully about the role. Any proposals/volunteers would be considered.

Andrew Mackie explained that during Pam Jackson's chairmanship, she had personally undertaken much of the work of the Friends, however this was no longer the case. The Committee was very active with everyone taking responsibility for the work involved. The role was therefore much less onerous than it had been in the past. Taking on the position on a trial basis was also an option.

Andrew Mackie then moved on to deal with formal items regarding membership of the Committee. He explained that election/re-election was required to take place every 2 years. The Treasurer (Andrew Mackie) and the Secretary (Dorothy Wright), were due for re-election and were both willing to continue.

The continued appointment of Andrew Mackie was proposed by Carola Bronte-Stewart and seconded by Jean Allen. The continued appointment of Dorothy Wright was proposed by Jean Allen and seconded by Carola Bronte Stewart. The meeting approved the appointments.

Andrew Mackie said it was a good Committee and thanked all for their individual and collective contributions. There were no questions on this agenda item.

Treasurers Report

Andrew Mackie advised that a formal report had been circulated with the papers. He drew attention to the fact thirty six people took out or renewed annual membership with three new life members. Andrew Mackie advised the meeting that membership cards would be issued shortly (both life and annual) to all members. Annual membership will run from January to December. Membership taken out during the year will run until the end of the following year.

In relation to Friends assets, they have reduced over the last financial year by just over £2,000. This figure does not include the Pamela Jackson legacy which is for prescribed purposes. Overall the reduction was reported to be relatively small give the increase in the number and size of bursary payments and the contribution of £1,000 to the Dolmetsch Lute Manuscript.

Andrew Mackie reported that the legacy fund had grown over the last financial year due to the earning of some interest. The funds were within a thirty two day notice account which provided the best return available ensuring funds remained available for our charitable purposes. It was noted that the legacy fund would start to reduce as scholarships were awarded.

Turning to the level of membership subscriptions, it was reported that they were set prior to Covid and remained unchanged at £150 (Life membership), £15.00 (annual membership) and £10.00 (student membership). The Committee proposes no change to subscription rates for 2024.

Andrew Mackie asked if there were any questions of the Treasurers Report. In response to a question as to how many members the Friends had Andrew Mackie responded in the region of 120. He highlighted that if incorrect email addresses had been provided it was difficult to sustain contact with members.

A further question from the floor related to whether the Pamela Jackson funds should be reported within the Friends main assets. Andrew Mackie said that in preparing the accounts last year he had separated them however the Independent Assessor advised this was not the correct approach and it was only interest that had to be shown separately.

A question was asked in relation to the halving of an insurance payment and why that was the case. Andrew Mackie confirmed that this reduction had come about due 3rd party insurance being taken over by the Hall (University of Edinburgh).

There being no further questions, Andrew Mackie asked for a proposed acceptance of the financial statement (Graeme Lyall) and seconded by Nigel Griffiths. The financial statement was approved.

In relation to the proposal that Membership Subscriptions remained unchanged, this was proposed by Jean Allen and seconded by Graeme Lyall.

Turning to the continuation of the appointment of Alison Lawson as Independent Assessor, this was proposed by Carola Bronte Stewart and seconded by Arnold Myers. Alison Lawson was duly appointed to carry out this role for a further year.

Pamela Jackson Bequest

Andrew Mackie reported that at the 2022 AGM, the Friends were very close to finalising all relevant matters in relation to the Bequest which were duly completed. The University was therefore able to proceed to advertise and award the first Pamela Jackson scholarship to Luke Whitlock. Amongst other things Luke is a researcher and producer with Radio 3 undertaking work in relation to neglected composers, including women and those from a black and ethnic minority background.

It was a pleasure to welcome Luke to the AGM. Andrew Mackie invited Luke to address the meeting.

Luke provided a mid-term report to the meeting. He confirmed that his MScR title was

‘Neglected Creatives: a portfolio of compositions exploring instruments made by women, accompanied by a public performance of these new works using the museum instruments for which they were composed’.

Luke advised that the instruments to be explored throughout his research degree are the Carleen Hutchins violin octet, a 1766 Shudi Harpsichord and a selection of brass instruments made by Besson between 1873 and 1895. All of these instruments were in some way influenced by women in their creation.

Work undertaken at the time of reporting included workshops with the Hall’s Curator Dr Jenny Nex (Shudi and Hutchins instruments), interview with Dr John Kitchen (to be edited) and audio samples provided for the Hall’s website. A second workshop has also been held with Dr John Kitchen on the Shudi Harpsichord.

In relation to his work with Radio 3, Luke is exploring the potential for a programme exploring the Hutchins violins. There is a defined process for taking ideas forward and it is not clear whether any proposal will be approved at this stage.

Work Planned for early 2024, included a workshop for some of the Besson instruments, exploring compositions for all the instruments explored with the possibility of a public lecture recital in the summer of 2024 (St Cecillas Hall).

Further work planned includes research into two forgotten historic women composers, and the writing of a paragraph biography for each to be published on- line (Ethel Parker and Margaret Purcell).

Andrew Mackie thanked Luke for taking the time to attend the AGM and for providing such a positive report on his research to date. The Friends are very much looking forward to exploring the outputs from this research in the course of 2024.

Festival Fringe Concerts

Andrew Mackie reported a higher attendance for our August 2023 concert series than the previous year however not as high as prior Covid numbers. A further change has been the switch to on-line bookings through the Edinburgh Fringe Office (as opposed to buying a ticket in person at the door). The Committee will continue to reflect on what further changes may need to be made to our administration arrangements.

All arrangements went well and Andrew Mackie thanked the Hall and Museum team, Friends and volunteers for all their help to make each concert a success. The dates of the 2024 concert series were advised as

Wednesday 7th, Saturday 10th, Wednesday 14th, Saturday 17th and Wednesday 21st (Shackleton Concert) of August.

It was hoped to continue to have the continued support of the Keyboard Trust with the Shackleton Concert supported by the University.

In response to a question from the floor, Andrew Mackie said that the Friends were not complacent about publicity and had the aim of taking this forward in 2024. Andrew Mackie thanked particularly the Friends Committee member Carola Bronte Stewart for all the work she has done to support in this area.

Lute Manuscript

Andrew Mackie reminded the meeting that the Friends had made a financial contribution and had supported the successful purchase of the Lute Manuscript. Andrew Mackie reported that the manuscript had been digitised and was now in use for research purposes and in 2024 it was expected that there would be events built around the manuscript to which the Friends will be involved. It is a question of 'watch this space'.

Publications Report

Andrew Mackie reported that after a period of lacklustre interest in sales of plans of instruments in the St Cecelia collection of early keyboard, woodwind and other instruments due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, a slow return of interest in the purchase of instrument plans and publications is becoming evident during the last six months of the 2022/23 period. £1193.31 has accrued during the year to the society funds from sales of keyboard, string, woodwind instruments and books.

The addition of an early lute tablature manuscript to the museum collection has helped expand the scope of materials available for scholars and these will be developed in various ways in due course.

The sale of plans for the construction of a hurdy-gurdy instrument has resulted in the offer of the instrument (produced from the drawings which were sold to a luthier). This instrument, offered at cost price, is now probably to be bought by the Edinburgh Renaissance Band, who regularly play in the Hall.

It was further reported that under present consideration is the possibility of reprinting one of the collection's best-selling publications (Thomas Sanderson's Incidents) which traces the history of St Cecelia's and the hall in which the musical instrument collection is based as part of the University of Edinburgh.

It is hoped continued growth of sales of instrument plans and related publications, now stocked on a when requested for sale basis will support the work of the Friends into the future and serve the aims of the organisation as they were when it was first established.

A.O.C.B

There were no additional items of competent business.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on the 23 November 2024 at 2.30 p.m. in St Cecelias Hall