

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Herculaneum Society held on Saturday 10 October 2015 at 16.00 at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies Lecture Theatre, 66 St Giles', Oxford

Present: *Trustees:* Robert Fowler (Chair), Nigel Wilson, Kevin Lavery, Carol Scott, Kate Starling, *Secretary* Krystyna Cech, *Members:* Steven Bellingham, Bonnie Blackburn, John Bithell, Marsali Coles, Lindsey Davis, Paul Everard, Judy Fowler, Sheena and Iona Hampson, Leofranc Holford-Strevens, Alicja Hollings, Rosemary Jeffreys, Christopher Leigh-Smith, Joy Littlewood, Patrick Pollard, William Poole, Susan Russell, Pat Smith, Peter Spital, Georgina Willey, Jamila Zaid

The minutes of the 2014 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. Also, Kate Starling who is organising the next Herculaneum Congress in 2016, gave a presentation on the early planning stage of the Congress.

The Accounts

This year is the last year two sets of accounts are being presented. From now on there will be only one set since the merger of the two Societies took place in May. There is a shortfall of £1600 in the accounts this year as compared to last year. This is due to the level of donations and also the fact that there was less Gift Aid.

Summer Schools

RF presented a report of the 1st Herculaneum Summer School which took place this June. A wide-ranging programme was provided at the Summer School with input from Christian Biggi, Jo Berry, Thomas Howe and Sarah Hendriks. In total, there were only four participants. Pat Smith, one of the attendees, voiced her praise for the organisation and content of the course. She bemoaned the fact that there were not any more participants. It had been decided that the Summer School should run despite poor take up and the inevitable financial deficit in the hope that the idea would catch on and encourage more people to sign up for subsequent ones. The 2nd Summer School in September, though having more participants sign up, had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. It is hoped that the 3rd one in March 2016 will go ahead. The Trustees are working on more effective ways of advertising the Summer Schools. If the next Summer School is unsuccessful, Plan B or the development of learning materials (on the lines of the Ancient Lives project) will be put in place.

The 2016 Herculaneum Congress

KS gave a PP presentation on the planning of the next Congress. Considerations, possible dates, ideas for focus of site visit(s) and ideas for visits were all discussed. Members made various suggestions for where to visit: PS suggested the tunnel under the forum of Herculaneum, LD: Cumae, PP: Capri, LH-S: mentioned that due consideration should be made for lunch stops. RJ made the point that we should plan to visit places inaccessible to the general public and where we would gain access by virtue of being Herculaneum Society members.