

The Stewartry Literary Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2023

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 2pm in Broughton House, High Street, Kirkcudbright. Twenty-one members attended.

1	Welcome: The Chairman Douglas Alcock welcomed those present for attending the first AGM of the Stewartry Literary Society. The decision of the committee had been to widen those that would come from further afield than Kirkcudbright and this had been very successful with members joining from the outlying districts. There had been no previous minutes to approve due to Covid and the previous Kirkcudbright Literary Society being in abeyance. It had been a successful year with excellent speakers and we looked forward to another good year ahead.
2	Apologies for Absence: were received from Jean Green, Penny Bryson, Mary Newton, Paul & Elizabeth Fletcher, David Huxley, Lizzie-Anne Maitland and Ian & Sarah Steele.
3	Previous AGM Minutes: there were none available as there had not been an AGM due to the pandemic.
4	To Receive and Approve the Constitution: the Constitution was accepted and proposed by <i>Colin Milligan</i> and seconded by <i>Mo Patullo</i> .
5	To receive and approve the Chairmans Annual Report 2022/2023: As we come to the end of our first season as The Stewartry Literary Society, it is my pleasure to introduce its Annual Report. It should be said that 2022/2023 has been a period of transition for the Society after the effects of the covid pandemic which for two years closed down the Kirkcudbright Literary Society, established way back in 1910. However during that period, a new Committee of four people was convened by myself and we worked together to revive the society with a new constitution and a new name, The Stewartry Literary Society. We also made the decision to move the meetings to afternoons rather than evenings, as had been the case previously. The main objective was to revisit and widen the membership, and to raise its profile in Galloway. Another aim was to broaden our search for speakers and attract some of Scotland's best-known writers to Kirkcudbright. Due to the commitment and hard work of the Committee we have been able to achieve this and have provided the Members with a programme of writers of different genres. We had a pre-season, introductory summer social which was well attended, and at which a local writer spoke about her latest gothic novel. This together with good marketing and communications has resulted in a huge growth of membership, so much so that we now have a waiting list. At every event this season we have enjoyed a full house, so we are encouraged to think we are on the right track and providing you with what you enjoy. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the National Trust for Scotland for allowing us to meet in this exceptionally beautiful and special house. Every speaker without exception has commented on Broughton House's unique atmosphere. Sarah, Mel and Lisa lead by David Stothard have been so supportive and helpful in accommodating us and they deserve a special mention. And finally, a very personal thank you from me to William Oakes, Gwen Shaw and Gordon Cowan who have been unstinting in their efforts to enable the successful launch and first season of

	The Stewartry Literary Society. Douglas Alcock Chairman. <i>Proposed by Michael Lawton and seconded by Mo Patullo.</i>
6	To receive and approve the Financial Report: this had been signed today as the Independent Examiner had been away. ** <u>It will be circulated with these minutes.</u> ** <i>The Report was proposed by Bob Reddaway and seconded by Don Cowell.</i>
7	Re-election of the current Chairman and Committee for 2023/2024: all four members of the committee were re-elected unopposed. <i>Proposed by Mo Patullo and seconded by John Brown.</i>
8	Election of new committee members for 2023/2024: at the conclusion of the meeting Pauline and John Brown agreed to join the committee ; we are most grateful to them and welcome them to our team..
9	Election of Independent Financial Examiner: 2023/2024: Lindsay Forbes had kindly agreed to this. He was proposed by <i>Ian Bradbury and seconded by Brenda Burkitt.</i>
10	Chairman's closing remarks and AOCB: the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and making our first post covid year such a success. The Treasurer William Oakes thanked Lindsay Forbes for becoming the Independent Examiner; as he was a Lawyer by trade and did not find the role an easy one. (WO) said that when he took over from Jean Green, she had handed him a brief case containing minute books with his name on it! It had belonged to his father who had been Treasurer at the AGM in 1985. The Ewart Library had confirmed that the Society was founded in 1910. Lindsay Forbes then informed us that his father had fought to have the house opened to the public against the wishes of the then Provost, Convenor and Sheriff as it was at that time closed to the public. Hornel left the house for public use and he would be delighted to know that it was in use for the purpose he wished. After the meeting Patrick Laurie, the Galloway writer gave us an excellent interview with the chairman on his book <i>Native; Life in a Vanishing Landscape.</i>
11	Date of the net AGM: Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 2pm prior to the talk.

DA/GMAS 08/03/2023

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