

Minutes of Eden Valley Museum Trust (EVMT) 25th Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 27 May 2021 at 7pm online via zoom

All meeting documents and reports referred to were made available online in advance at:

<https://evmt.org.uk/agm-information-page2021/>

Members unable to attend had the opportunity to vote by post or online prior to the meeting.

Present: Lee Ward (Chair), Alan Layland (Deputy Chair), Diane Banks (Hon. Treasurer), Joan Varley (Hon. Secretary). Exec., Committee Members: Richard Johnson, Alan Layland, Stuart McGregor, Anna McMillan (Curatorial Chair). Martin Frost (House Manager), Miranda Charalambous (Collections Manager) and a further 21 members

Opening remarks: The Chairman opened the Annual General Meeting and welcomed those present. He went on to explain that although it had not been long since the last AGM, a decision had been made to bring the timing of AGM's back May to coincide with the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts and Annual Returns.

1. Apologies: Howard Williams, Mary McCarten, Brenda Hillman, John & Sheila Summers-Asquez, Jean & Jim French, Paul Byrne, Lennox Cato, Allen Varley, Margot McCarthur, Jane Wroe, Clair Donithorn, Cad Cust. The Secretary read out a short message to members from member Jean Cust who had sadly passed away earlier in May.

2. Minutes of the 24th EVMT Annual General Meeting held on 8th December 2020

The Chairman called for amendments to minutes. There being no amendments, the Chairman signed the minutes as a true and correct record. Proposed by Anna McMillan; Seconded by Alan Layland, carried by a show of hands.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Made available online in advance.

LW thanked everyone for attending and said he hoped we would all be able to meet in person next year. He gave a brief outline of the way in which the museum was addressing the work involved in preparing for the forthcoming round of Accreditation, due for submission in early 2021. Accreditation looks at a lot of areas of the museum's operation. Several Working Groups had been set up dealing with Organisational Structure, Collections and Users. If there were any members who would like to get involved to learn about the process and help, please come forward and email curator@evmt.org.uk in the first instance. We are working towards getting the museum open again and when you visit you will see a lot of changes. He thanked all the staff for their hard work and expanded upon how important the contribution of volunteers is to the museum, making a special mention of all those who had helped with the changes in the galleries and shop that had taken place during lockdown. LW went on to thank our local sponsors for their support and the support of Edenbridge Town Council. LW encouraged members who are not currently volunteering to consider stepping forward and bringing along any friends who might be interested in becoming members or volunteering to the Coffee Morning on 19th June.

5. Curatorial Report

Made available online in advance.

AM thanked all the members of the Curatorial Committee who had all been active throughout a difficult year including those working on the *Eden Valley Heritage* magazine. Claire Donithorn has created an exhibition of Roman Coins and Roman Finds all from this area, this will be complemented by a talk by Claire on 'The Romans are Coming' on 26 June. The 901 Years of the Parish Church exhibition opens on 23 June. Later in the year there will be a visit to the Parish Church to view the 14th century wall paintings discovered during the church cleaning.

5a. Collections

MC informed the meeting of some recent new additions to the collection and is developing related stories for each of them. They include a PH Meter use in the Tannery; two objects related to the Warmafoam factory and she developed a polystyrene elephant children's activity for the website, part of the Wheels of Time initiative; an Edenbridge trade token that belonged to Catherine Hubert a proprietor of the Crown Inn; a second token related to the wool industry. Jonathan Barber has donated many of the Roman objects in Claire's exhibition. The conservation of Algie the Chimp was carried out by a specialist recommended by Joanna Low (MDO), the BBC Repair Shop programme is not an option for museums. The specialist conservator will promote the work she has done on our Chimp once our appeal comes down off the website.

5b. House Management Report

Made available online in advance.

MF repeated the information about the forthcoming events. The Coffee Morning on the 19th is for members and friends. Refreshments in Rickards Hall. MF & MC will be available to chat to potential new volunteers. We will be opening on 23rd June, normal opening times. June 26th Romans are Coming Talk. Talk runs from 7pm., prior to that there will be a social gathering starting at 5pm with drinks and hors d'oeuvre. The museum will open at 5.30pm for tours. The talk will also be online. Tickets £14, £10 for members. We have a new museum sign, waiting for SDC Conservation Officer to give permission to put it up. MF thanked Richard Johnson and Paul Byrne for their assistance with all the changes. The shop window has been opened up and new ranges of stock purchased. There will be new training for volunteer stewards in relation to all the changes.

6. Treasurer's Report

Accounts made available online in advance.

DB drew attention to the c.£2000 drop in income classed as general donations during the last financial year, partly due to the loss of donation boxes and shop sales and the reduced grant from the GSBT, however we more than doubled our general Trust activities as a result of multiple Covid related grants from SDC and SEMDP allowing us to continue a range of activities during the Pandemic and implement projects related to re-opening, recovery, and re-tooling ourselves for post-Pandemic life. The SEMDP grants are project specific and so whilst the museum has been able to purchase a lot of new equipment, it has meant an increase in staff hours, however we have still ended 2020-21 in profit. Going forward, we are hoping for increased donations and income from shop sales when the museum and shop re-open in late June. We are also hoping to get the full grant from GSBT this year, although we are conscious of the increased demands upon local sponsors due to Covid. We need to increase our operating income during this financial year to cover both office and staff costs and so we are exploring ways to attract more sponsorship and donations through, for example, partnerships with local businesses. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with fundraising please get in touch.

7. To receive and approve the Annual Report and Accounts

Proposed by Anna McMillan

Seconded by Alan Layland

Carried in the vote which took place after Item 9 + votes received online and via post prior to the meeting.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Proposed by Stuart McGregor

Seconded by Anna McMillan

Carried in the vote which took place after Item 9 + votes received online and via post prior to the meeting.

9. Election of Officers and Executive Committee (Block Vote)

Proposed by Gill Davison

Seconded by Ray Taylor

Carried.

Members not able to attend the online meeting had the opportunity to vote online or by post prior to the meeting.

Members attending the online meeting were now invited to vote online during a short break in proceedings.

10. Any other Business

None

Closing Remarks

During the break for voting, LW took the opportunity to look at the changes that had taken place in the galleries, and once again thanked Richard Johnson, his son Howard; Paul Byrne and Martin Frost for all their hard work. LW said he was very impressed with all the work that has gone on and is looking forward to seeing members and visitors back in the museum and seeing the shop window open to the High Street, so passers-by could look in.

LW thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.06 pm.

Signed

Date

Chair, Eden Valley Museum Trust

Pending approval and signature at 2022 Annual General Meeting

Members Attending

Jenny Chettle
Amy Dunkley
Rosemary Hill
Janet Lewis
Sandy Shaw
Terry King
Ray Taylor
Helen Jackman
Lyn Layland
Kay Wilson
Vic Jennings
Julie Johnson
Gill Davison
Jan Lewis
Peter Lewis
Amy Dunkley
Ray Taylor
Wendy Taylor
Bob Howes
Carole Howes
Pauline Broussard

Voting

Jenny Chettle
Amy Dunkley
Diane Banks
Rosemary Hill
Janet Lewis
Sandy Shaw
Terry King
Jean French
Anna McMillan
Claire Donithorn
Giles Jackman
Helen Jackman
Jane Wroe
Miranda Charalambous
Brenda Hillman
Allen Varley
Joan Varley