

With details of Moray Society AGM 2022



SEASONS GREETINGS

From
Napoleon
and all at Elgin Museum

President's Report



We have gradually been getting the Museum opened and back in business once again. A big effort was made to cover the October "tattie" holidays and thanks are due to all those who volunteered.

The one-way system works well, with a little flexibility and having a bigger and brighter space for the shop is also a gain. Visitors included one or two groups by arrangement but it was interesting to welcome people from afar. This included one Norwegian who was in Moray to run a whisky marathon!

With the booster jabs now in full swing one does hope that perhaps next year we will open sooner and more often but I am well aware that covid is still around.

You will find notice of our slightly later AGM within this newsletter. Please do try and attend it to support us and please, please, do consider joining the Moray Society Board. We do need more Directors to advise and assist us.

The Board and all members and friends of the Moray Society were greatly saddened by Her Majesty the Queen's death. We have published a message of condolence to Her family and we have also continued the Jubilee display as a mark of our respect and esteem. In conclusion I do wish to thank, once again, the stalwart team who have kept the Museum open and have ensured that all is maintained and looked after. We are most grateful.

Grenville S Johnston
Hon President

Museum Assistant Report

Miscellaneous

Monday openings seemed to be successful; it was lovely having the Museum open to the public during the weeks of the school holidays, there was a nice 'buzz' to the museum and it was really good to see stalwarts again and meet some new volunteers.

Work behind the scenes

I am continuing to accession new acquisitions, resolving numbering problems with previous donations, liaising with metal detectorists and continuing to check through the archaeology boxes in the north store to photograph, record current locations for artefacts and transferring the full descriptions to the Inventory spreadsheet.

Training

I attended the 3-day Museums Association Conference (virtually) 3-5th November 2022 themed "Make Change Happen".

The Inventory Spreadsheet – Gayle Henderson

To complement the inventory project being undertaken by Bill and his team, all of our records spreadsheets are being updated so that we have a totally functioning, up to date record system. One of the tasks has been completed by Gayle working on the Inventory Master.

Gayle is comparing the information in the original accession books, to those of the 1978 accession project, and comparing them against the information on the MDA simple cards for each object. Gayle is investigating checking for anomalies and cross referencing the information that was in the accession register, for example, when the original description of provenance of an object is now categorised differently.

With the work being done by Bill and team to update all locations of objects, we should soon have an accurate physical location for every object to avoid 'losing' any objects, or indeed, any duplicates in the numbering system.

This is a major undertaking but one that we have put off for many years; Gayle's accuracy and IT skills will make this a much-needed project to have undertaken and to which we are most grateful for.

Heather Townsend.

Education and Outreach Report

Volunteers facilitated visits during the summer holidays from the Curious Minds Education Centre in Elgin, who took part in Pictish-themed activities, and from the local Quarriers group. We also hosted our first 'in-person' public event for two years with a talk from heritage storyteller, Joan Anderson, about the bravery of the local boatmen who rescued people in the aftermath of the 1829 Muckle Spate. Timed to coincide with the anniversary of the Floods, it was lovely to have people back in the Museum, even if they were still wearing masks.

Museums Galleries Scotland have provided funds for sessional Education and Outreach Support workers to offer additional activities within the Museum and in the community to help the sector rebuild relationships post-Covid. Curious Minds benefited from sessions delivered by wildlife expert Will Hall and from activities linked to Moray's military history created by Emma McKie. Rod Oliver spoke to staff and residents at Spynie care home about his father's exploits during World War II and about the RAF in Moray during the conflict. We hope to be

able to offer other activities to groups and schools, with Gisella Joss tasked with reviewing what curriculum support schools would like the Museum to offer.



Will delivered our first drop-in sessions since 2019, with two groups of 7 to 10-year-olds taking part in his wildlife themed workshops. These were well received by the participants, with Will being described as 'awesome' by one child, who was desperate to 'go exploring' with him.

Will also ran a session for families with additional support needs who had worked with Moray Council's Community Learning & Development staff on the 'High-5' award over the summer - Will was asked to present certificates to the children in recognition of their achievement.

Volunteers also hosted a visit from 1st Kinloss Cubs – the children were working on four different badges and, after a tour of the Museum, the Scout leaders divided the children into groups to look at the displays in more detail so that they could focus on different aspects of the badge work.

We hope to see more people engaging with the Museum and its collections through the sessional support scheme so watch this space!

Alison Wright

Geology Group Report – EMCC Nov 2022

© Gabriel Ugueto

© Matt

The Geology Group have had another busy summer. Staff and MSc students from the University of Edinburgh visited the Museum in June and Dave and Alison met staff and MSc students from the University of Aberdeen on the coast in October. The former group spend a lot of time analysing seismic data so were particularly interested in the Stotfield cherty rock which acts as a strong seismic reflector and is used to correlate sections across the North Sea. The Aberdeen students were also looking at the Hopeman rocks in a wider context, comparing how the rocks at Cummington are compartmentalised due to iron-mineralisation infilling fractures with the less deformed sequences at Helmsdale and Wick. Analog studies are important in both the search for oil and gas reserves and for emerging technologies such as carbon sequestration.

We also had a visit from an adult geological education group who were in northeast Scotland for a week-long excursion. Organised by the editor of *Down to Earth*, we knew that they were in the area but, as they hadn't responded to our offer of help, it was only by chance that Dave was on hand to explain the fossil collection to them. The group thoroughly enjoyed looking around the Museum and they left some really nice comments in the Visitors' Book.

Dave spoke to the Elgin BALL group in September after a visit from their programme organiser revealed that she and the group had never heard of the Elgin Reptiles!

One of our Triassic reptiles, *Scleromochlus*, made headlines around the world following the October publication of Dr Davide Foffa's long-anticipated paper in *Nature*, confirming that this animal is an early pterosaur. Davide has visited Elgin Museum on several occasions but the fossils from the Lossiemouth quarries analysed in his latest study are all held at National Museums Scotland. Dave was on duty following Davide's announcement so made sure that our visitors were aware of the importance of these exciting findings.

Hady George, who was working on new scans of the dicynodont skull from Clashach quarry, has completed his MSc, but we've yet to receive a copy of his thesis. He visited the quarry with Carol Hopkins over the summer as it was Carol who realised the importance of the block when it was found in 1995. We look forward to seeing his results, which should provide new information about the skull.



Stunning new reconstruction of the *Scleromochlus* skeleton based on Davide Foffa's scanning results



A reconstruction by professional palaeoartist Gabriel Ugueto, showing what these animals might have looked like, although the desert environment ~ 227 million-years-ago in Moray would not have supported such lush greenery!

Janet hosted a group of pupils from Gordonstoun Junior School in September who were introduced to our geological collection by the father of one of the children, a professional geologist. The P2/P3 students had an interesting morning, sharing pictures of their visit on [Twitter](#).

Enquiries from the public regarding possible fossil finds at Lossiemouth and Findhorn beach and about footprints in a garden wall have also been answered. Sadly, the fossil finds weren't but the footprints merit further attention; Dave has invited the owner of the prints to visit the Museum to find out more about them.

Dave also helped run a pebble-themed event at Garmouth as part of the Scottish Geology Trust's annual Geology Festival. About 100 people attended the community-led project, making it a busy couple of hours.

Plans for the winter include going back to the inventory tasks which have been 'shelved' in recent months! We also hope to work with wildlife photographer and film maker, Will Hall, to produce a short video about the fossil footprints. The video will be uploaded to the Museum's YouTube channel, alongside our existing clips discussing some of the items in the [Recognised Collection](#).

If you'd like to know more about the Recognised Collection, please speak to one of the Geology Group (Janet, Alison, or Dave). If you don't already have a copy of *The Elgin Reptiles* booklet, please consider adding this to your Christmas list; at just £5 for the A5 version or £10 for the larger-print A4 copy, they make ideal presents! Sales through the year have been steady and, thanks to support received from the John Ellerman Fund, all monies raised go directly to the Museum.

Alison Wright

EMGG 26/10/22

Volunteer Mentor

I am delighted to welcome Peggy Scott as our new volunteer mentor who takes over from Jenny Cook who has retired from the post.

Huge thanks are due to Jenny who undertook the task for several years and was instrumental in bringing many new volunteers into the fold.

Peggy has worked in volunteer services for many years so brings great knowledge and experience to the post. With things getting back to normal, I am sure you will have a chance to meet her and make her welcome to the Museum.

Sad news



Belatedly, I would like to advise you of the death of one of our previous volunteers. Sandy McAdam from Dufftown (pictured above with Mabel Rennie) was one of our long time volunteers and was a fixture in the museum meeting and greeting on a Tuesday morning, Sadly, Sandy, a retired distillery manager with a very keen interest in history, passed away earlier this year. I am, however, glad to say that his granddaughter has carried on Sandy's interest and as a history graduate has now embarked on a Museum Studies course in Aberdeen.

Inventory

One of my major tasks in the Museum for the last couple of years has been a complete inventory of the Museum's contents with updating of the database which is held on paper and electronically in the Museum. While far from complete, I am glad to say that the team have almost completed the task of checking all of the boxes in two of our stores – now we begin on the queries! Many items have still to be found and, thankfully many items that were 'lost' are now found. Huge thanks to this year's team of Stewart Halkett, Roger Prendegast, Dave Longstaff, Sheila Henderson, Hazel Jamieson and Janice Mackenzie.

**Bill Dalgarno,
Museum Convenor**

Membership

Membership of the Moray Society gives you access to this newsletter and to the facilities of Elgin Museum. It is to be hoped that our programme of talks in the Museum will recommence next year as well as other social activities. If you are not a member, you may wish to apply to join us. Applications for membership can be found on our website at elginmuseum.org.uk or if you wish drop a line, actual or electronic, to the Membership Secretary, Elgin Museum, 1, High Street, Elgin. IV30 1EQ.

We'd be delighted if you were to join us in supporting the heritage of Moray. At the AGM last year, the membership criteria were changed and are now as on the following page.

Ordinary Members shall be aged 18 or over and pay an annual subscription due and shall have one vote.

Family Members: shall be two or more persons residing at the same address and shall be obliged to pay a subscription at a rate of one and a half times that of one Ordinary Member. Each such person aged 18 or over shall have the same voting rights as an Ordinary Member and references to Ordinary Members within these Articles shall refer equally to each person aged 18 of a Family Membership.

Junior members: who shall be aged under 18 and pay any annual membership subscription due. Junior members are neither eligible to stand for election to the Board nor to vote at any Members' meeting (although they may attend any Members' meeting in a non-voting capacity).

Corporate Members: any organisation(s) which pays any annual subscription due, each of which will have one vote exercised by its Authorised Representative or Named Depute appointed in terms of Article 5.2. An Authorised Representative, whom failing Named Depute, shall have the same voting rights as an Ordinary Member and references to Ordinary Members within these Articles shall refer equally to an Authorised Representative, whom failing Named Depute, unless otherwise provided for.

Life Members: who shall be 18 or over and pay a Life Membership subscription and have the same voting rights as an Ordinary Member and references to Ordinary Members within these Articles shall refer equally to a Life member.

Subscription rates:

Ordinary Member (18 to 25 Years old): Free

Ordinary Member over 25 years of age: £25 (Paid by standing order)

Ordinary member over 25 years of age: £30 (if not paid by standing order)

Family member: £37.50 (paid by standing order)

Family member: £45 (if not paid by standing order)

Junior member (under 18): Free

Corporate Member: £500 minimum contribution.

Life Member: £500 – SINGLE PAYMENT

Given the difficult conditions we are working under at the moment, I would again urge all members to think of any friend / friends who might be interested in joining the Moray Society and helping to preserve the heritage of Moray. Application forms can be found on the Elgin Museum website. Now, more than ever, we need to help to preserve the fine collection of artefacts held in the Museum and ensure they are available for future generations to enjoy.

Bill Dalgarno
Membership Secretary

Some archaeology updates

1. Iron Age mirror handle – we still hope that this Moray-found object, for which we have reserved the possibility of a loan from National Museum Scotland (NMS), can be the incentive for an Iron Age conference in the near future. It is looking likely the earliest will be 2024, to be able to bring this together. Watch this space.

2. Treasure Trove (TT) – despite taking on more staff, the Treasure Trove Unit (TTU) continues to be understaffed for the tasks, including unravelling a huge backlog. It was great that one of the 'new' team, Emily Freeman, was recently able to drop off a number of finds already allocated to us and in time for me to redo the downstairs archaeology display case for Highland Archaeology Festival: <https://elginmuseum.org.uk/l/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-Treasure-Trove-display.pdf> .

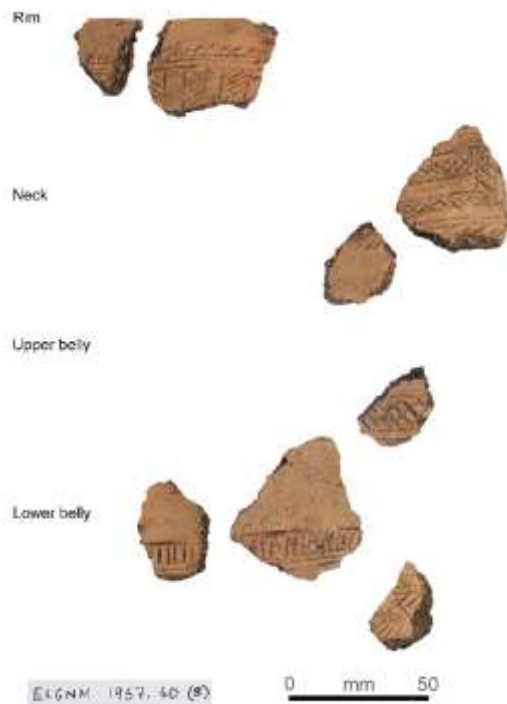
Emily also took away 3 boxes of metal detectorist finds, declared to us for consideration by the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP) for what is now the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (KLTR). It is key in general to the system's working that finders who declare finds have them dealt with timeously, and particularly for us in order to retain a good relationship with local detectorists.



Item 4. Neolithic arrowhead in probable Post Medieval silver frame, from Dufftown TT132/22 – photo credit Heather Townsend

3. Beaker fragments ELGNM 1957.60. (See item 9. in the display)

We are very grateful to Dr Alison Sheridan, Principal Curator emerita, NMS, who following up my replies to her enquiry about cist excavations at Roseisle, took the trouble to rearrange (electronically) the cist sherds as they would probably have appeared in the original beaker over 4000 years ago.



Sherds of beaker found in cist burial

4. Vikings – our most recent archaeological researcher to visit in person was Dr Adrián Maldonado, Galloway Hoard Researcher, NMS; he is looking into their Viking Age collections. We await his report on the half dozen of our ringed pins he examined, but he did imply objects labelled Viking or Norse found in NE Scotland were often of local manufacture. As he was leaving, he remarked on the pin on display in 'Status and Style', ELGNM 1989.05, and accessioned as AD 450. On the MDA card, which records no donor or find site, is a note that subsequently Susan Youngs, British Museum, thought it C10th AD Irish. Heather Townsend has a list of archaeological pins in the collection from the original accession books, but not allocated Museum numbers in the 1978 project: could it be 'Pin, bronze, from Ireland, from the bank of a tributary to the Shannon', donated in 1883'?

5. Scottish Government's Archaeology Strategy

Elgin Museum is represented on this group; I put us forward as a smaller museum managing metal detectorist finds and eligible to bid for Treasure Trove. We were all getting quite excited at the progress of a new 'Before the Museum' document which included huge improvements on the treatment of archaeological assemblages before their arrival in the museum: consistent labelling and documentation, completion of post-excavation assessments, practical management of soil samples. Sadly, the project is halted.

6. North East Concordat on Archaeological objects

In the past year, some progress has been made in the finalisation of this agreement between Accredited museums in Moray, Aberdeen University and City, and Aberdeenshire museums. Our Collections Development Policy is clear we collect only from Moray – and while the Falconer is closed, in practice this means Elgin Museum would normally have first dibs. Even in its draft form, it was an easy conduit to alert the others of some assemblages listed by TTU as Moray but not (and therefore of no relevance to us), as the others would not have had that direct alert from TTU. The Concordat is at a pause, again because the first part of writing any policy is relatively easy until you come to the sticking points which were the original incentive for the policy!

Janet Trythall, Elgin Museum Archaeology Volunteer, 01/11/2022

Moray Society Prize Draw

The Prize Draw has been running since April 2000 and has raised over £8000 for Elgin Museum. This helps with the day to day running costs and the Society is very grateful for this income. Organisation of the Draw Draw tickets are strictly limited to Moray Society members. Income from the sale of tickets is paid directly into the Moray Society Prize Draw account. All proceeds are used for the exclusive benefit of the Moray Society. Tickets are £10 each per annum and are valid for 4 draws. Draws are held quarterly with prizes of £25, £15 and £10 respectively for the first 3 numbers drawn, in sequence, at each draw. These prizes are based on an income of £1000 in tickets sold ie. 100 tickets. Many members have annual standing orders with their banks, which greatly reduces our costs. Standing orders can only be amended or cancelled by the persons concerned. Mandates for standing orders are available from the Museum on request. Cash, or cheques made payable to the Moray Society Prize Draw, are also accepted. There is no limit imposed by the Society on the number of tickets that may be held by individual members. Please contact me at the museum for queries about the draw or for application forms.

Mary Shand (Prize Draw Organiser)

Museum Tel. No. 01343 543675

Email curator@elginmuseum.org.uk

Moray Society Prize Draw

Please allocate me tickets in the Moray Society Prize Draw @ £10 each. *I enclose my payment of £ *Please forward me a standing order mandate *Delete as

appropriate Name

Address

Post Code

Email address

Do you remember?

I have unearthed a couple of old photos from the archives – do you recognise yourself in either of these?



1 High Street, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1EQ – Tel: 01343 543 675
curator@elginmuseum.org.uk
elginmuseum.org.uk

ELGIN MUSEUM – Scotland's oldest independent Museum – Established 1836

The Moray Society: Company No 106529 Charity No 017546

APPENDIX: Annual General Meeting Papers

Notice of The Moray Society Annual General Meeting 2022 1st December 2022, 7.00pm, via MS Teams Platform

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of AGM 2021 - for approval
4. Matters arising from above
5. President's and Vice-president's written reports on the activities of the Society (President, Grenville Johnston, Vice-president Claire Herbert)
6. Receive the Financial Report, including draft Accounts (Treasurer and Company Secretary, Graham Robertson) (Copy available to view at Elgin Museum)
7. Appointment of Ritsons, Chartered Accountants, Elgin as independent financial examiner for 2022
8. Board Membership - Annual Election
The following existing Trustees are resigning and standing for re-election having been duly proposed by two Ordinary Members.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bill Dalgarno | 1. Alison Wright | 2. Ritchie Mabon |
| Nick Brown | 1. Ritchie Mabon | 2. Bill Dalgarno |
| Claire Herbert | 1. Fiona Bing | 2. John Trythall |
| Stuart Huyton | 1. Dave Longstaff | 2. Sara Marsh |
| Graham Robertson | 1. Dave Longstaff | 2. Claire Herbert |
| Donna Skelly | 1. Bill Dalgarno | 2. Janet Trythall |
| Janet Trythall | 1. Mary Byatt | 2. Jenny Main |
| Alison Wright | 1. Mabel Rennie | 2. Claire Herbert |
9. Membership report, Bill Dalgarno, Membership Secretary

No proposed changes to Membership categories or subscriptions
10. AOCB
11. Close, to be followed by Moray Society Prize Draw.

The Moray Society Annual General Meeting 2021
17th September 2021, 7.00pm, via MS Teams Platform

Minutes

1. Welcome

The Vice-President, Claire Herbert (CH) and Trustee Janet Trythall (JT) welcomed those present. Trustee Janet Trythall shared the sad news of a number of Moray Society members who had passed away in the last year. Members are encouraged to consider The Moray Society/Elgin Museum in any bequests.

2. Apologies for absence

*Apologies from President Grenville Johnston
27 apologies received*

3. Minutes of AGM 2020 – accepted nem com

4. Matters arising from above

JT thanked Treasurer & Volunteer Graham Robertson for dismantling the de-accessioned mangle and delivering it to its new home at a heritage centre on the Black Isle

5. President's and Vice-president's written reports on the activities of the Society (President, Grenville Johnston, Vice-president Claire Herbert)

On file

6. Receive the Financial Report, including draft Accounts (Treasurer and Company Secretary, Graham Robertson)

This year has been a difficult year, but we've managed to get through. Support received from government grants, but income from visitors has obviously dropped as the Museum has not been open over the summer (we only reopened to visitors in August, on a limited basis). We have managed to take a better control of expenditure, but still some large outgoings which are "essentials" such as insurance.

One major change to draft accounts to the final accounts that c. £85K of expenditure still being carried on the display cabinets in the main gallery (installed 20+ years ago). These cases are now showing their age, so have agreed with accountants to begin a more accelerated write off of this expenditure – depreciation in final accounts of c. £25k as opposed to c. £12K shown in draft accounts.

Note an error in the balance sheet circulated, which featured previous year figures for 2018 alongside the current year. Hold investments @ c. £200K at time of meeting, but approx. £110K are restricted (donations for specific purpose), the remainder is being held back due to uncertainty in coming years as well as essential building works which will be required.

7. Appointment of Ritsons, Chartered Accountants, Elgin as independent financial examiner for 2021
Accepted

8. Board Membership - Annual Election

The following existing Trustees are resigning and standing for re-election having been duly proposed by two Ordinary Members. See notes for the Agenda:

Bill Dalgarno ex officio

Nick Brown (new, co-opted on 2nd June 2021) 1. Edna Cameron 2. Sara Marsh

Claire Herbert 1. John Trythall 2. Alison Wright

Stuart Huyton 1. Alison Wright 2. Dave Longstaff

Grenville Johnston 1. Angela Monro 2. Mary Byatt

Rihard Laing (new, co-opted on 2nd June 2021) 1. Mabel Rennie 2. Heather Cruickshank

Graham Robertson 1. Dave Longstaff 2. Claire Herbert

Donna Skelly 1. Ritchie Mabon 2. Mabel Rennie

Janet Trythall 1. Mary Shand 2. Tom Duff
Caroline Webster 1. Grenville Johnston 2. Donna Skelly

Accepted

Thanks were given to those Trustees who had stepped down in the last year: Mary Shand, Rebecca Russell, Edna Cameron.

JT highlighted that Grenville Johnston is staying on as President, and was thanked for this, however he was due to "retire" from this position in 2020. Any suggestions or volunteers for new Trustees welcomed!

CH added that an individual does not have to be resident in Moray to be a Trustee

9. Amendments to Constitution

Written outline of amendments circulated, and on file.

9.1 Changes allowing use of online meeting platforms for future AGMs and EGMs

Accepted

9.2 Changes to categories of Membership

Accepted

10. Membership report

Note proposed changes to Membership categories under point 9.2 above, and paper circulated (on file)

Fixing of annual subscriptions. The Board recommends:

Ordinary Member (18 to 25 Years old): Free

Ordinary Member over 25 years of age: £25 (Paid by standing order)

Ordinary member over 25 years of age: £30 (if not paid by standing order)

Family member: £37.50 (paid by standing order)

Family member: £45 (if not paid by standing order)

Junior member (under 18): Free

Corporate Member: £500 minimum contribution.

Life Member: £500 – SINGLE PAYMENT

Membership subscriptions Accepted

11. AOCB

Mary Shand – consider reviewing publicity & marketing strategy and volunteer roles, since focus now on digital. JT suggest bringing this to the next EMMC meeting, to discuss all the Management Committee roles.

12. Close

Moray Society Prize Draw – Mary Shand

Any member can buy a ticket for the Prize Draw – for ticket price of £10 for 4 draws throughout the year.

Numbers drawn: £20 no45 (B. D.); £30 no73 (A. W.); £50 no68 (P. C.)

James Welsh flagged that he had not yet sent payment for two Prize Draw tickets. Noted by Mary Shand.

JT offered thanks to Mary for running the draw. If anyone would like to buy a ticket, get in touch.

CH highlighted that rather than a usual post-AGM in person lecture, a new virtual event had been released – a new episode of Elgin Museum: In Conversation, featuring conservation architect Pinny Muir from LDN Architects. This can be viewed on the Museum's YouTube Channel. Suggestions for other guests welcomed!

Alison Wright asked that thanks were noted to the Executive Group (Graham Robertson, Janet Trythall, Bill Dalgarno, Claire Herbert) for their work over the last year to steer the museum through the challenges of Covid-19. Seconded by Duncan Alexander and Mary Byatt

CH thanked Alison Wright and the geology group for delivering the excellent "At the Water's Edge" exhibition and events under very difficult circumstances. New publication "The Elgin Reptiles" available to buy, see museum website for details.

President's Report 2021

As ever, I would firstly like to thank all of you for your continued support of the Moray Society and Elgin Museum.

Next, I urge you to visit the Museum, reopened at last if only at weekends at the moment. This is my personal recommendation as I thoroughly enjoyed my own visit (after booking my slot as a visitor, on the website): the welcome from the volunteers on duty throughout the Museum, the new displays and the general approach to balancing Covid safety and enjoyment for all. There has been a steady stream of visitors and I understand that they are spending more time examining the exhibits.

We have taken the decision to hold this year's AGM online again – partly because our building does not lend itself to safe gathering of a large group of people in the ongoing pandemic, and partly because the Lecture Hall is "repurposed" as the new shop and exit from the Museum!

In your papers for the AGM, you will see we have to change the Constitution to allow us to have the option of this "virtual" AGM and for the future. At the same time, we propose a revision of the Constitution's membership categories and in parallel, changes to the subscriptions to encourage younger members.

Since March 2020, three stalwarts, members of both the Board and Management Committee, and led by our Vice-president, have carried on the bulk of the management tasks and responsibilities; this has covered both the day to day and the additional tasks arising from Covid and a crumbling building.

There are too many priorities to enumerate here, but I will highlight the urgent need for funding for the proposed building programme and for a Manager/Curator for the Museum. I have left it to our Vice-president to write a report which I hope gives you a flavour of what has been going on behind the scenes while the Museum has been "closed".

Finally, please do return to volunteering at Elgin Museum. We are open for business and being very safe about it. The regular email updates you have received have been wonderfully put together using digital technology. It keeps you up to date and contains such interesting topics. (And good jokes!) But to experience the real thing come back and help us.

Best wishes to you all.

Grenville Johnston, President, The Moray Society

August 2021

PS. I wonder how many of you purchased the tomato plants being sold in aid of the Museum? I paid for three. I have fed and watered them. I have eaten three tomatoes and have thirty on the way!

Vice-president's Report 2021

Another year has passed, and, although we've only recently reopened to visitors, there has been a lot of work going on in the background! The Emergency Executive Group (myself, treasurer Graham Robertson, museum convenor Bill Dalgarno and Janet Trythall) has continued to meet regularly and steer the Museum through this challenging situation with the ongoing support of our very dedicated Museum Management Committee and Board.

We've continued to carefully monitor all Government and Sector guidance around the ongoing Covid-19 situation, and, as you can imagine, our over 170-year old building does not lend itself to social distancing or other Covid-19 safety measures (for example, we have no means of ventilating the building). With advice from a local H&S company (Safe Hands), we've put in place mitigation measures to ensure safe access for all staff, volunteers and now visitors. We have as an organisation made a conscious decision to put the safety of our staff/volunteers and visitors first. This does mean that although we have reopened to visitors this month, it continues to be in a more limited capacity and with mitigation measures still in place (social distancing, one-way system, booked timeslots, face coverings). We expect these measures to remain in place for the foreseeable future, to be re-assessed monthly.

Even with these changes, it has been wonderful to welcome visitors - and more volunteers - back to the Museum, and certainly all of those who've visited so far seem to have enjoyed the chance to

*explore our new exhibitions! If you haven't visited us yet, head over to our website to book your free ticket now – don't miss your chance to see our new At the Water's Edge exhibition which brings together fossils of *Elginerpeton pancheni* for the first time in over 375 million years!*

We've also continued with some essential collections work since the last AGM, with Bill leading a small team of volunteers in carrying out an inventory of the Museum's collection. The group has started with the North Store, and work continues in earnest – if anyone would like to help out, please contact Bill via email (curator@elginmuseum.org.uk).

In March we appointed a new Learning & Outreach Officer, who sadly has recently left us to take up a full-time, long term post. During her time with us she added greatly to our online activities for young people (all still available on our website and YouTube Channel) which, given the Covid complications of delivering events and trails in the building, gives us time to review for if and when the situation improves.

As always, I'd remind you to explore our website, social media and YouTube channel – we now have over 150 subscribers to our channel and almost 50 videos for you to watch. Keep an eye out for a new episode of Elgin Museum: In Conversation coming out on 18th September to celebrate Moray Doors Open Day!

My thanks to everyone who has supported Elgin Museum in the last year, whether by volunteering, by watching one of our videos, or by donating. As we head towards our 180th anniversary, all of your support is more critical than ever in helping us keep going!

Claire Herbert, Vice-President August 2021

Notes for AGM 2021 Agenda item 9

i) The required wording for the Resolution as drafted by our solicitors, J&H Mitchell, and included in the Agenda and on the Proxy Form:

Special Resolution (Amendment of Constitution) to be passed by not less than 75% of the Ordinary Members present and voting thereon (no account therefore being taken of Ordinary Members who abstain from voting or who are absent from the meeting), that with the effect from the conclusion of the meeting the draft Articles of Association, a draft of which accompanies this Notice, be adopted as the Articles of Association of The Moray Society in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Articles of Association.

ii) The draft revised Articles (showing the changes in red) are included in the papers circulated for the meeting. A copy of the existing articles (The Moray Society Constitution 2018) can be found on the Museum's website. <https://elginmuseum.org.uk/policies/>

iii) If the Special Resolution is passed, our solicitor will provide us with the relevant notifications to sign for Companies House and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), and thereafter lodge these on our behalf.

Agenda 9.1 Changes allowing use of online meeting platforms for future AGMs and EGMs

Background to the need for the proposed amendments:

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and various forms of lockdown and other necessary precautions relating to meetings in person, necessitated our 2020 AGM's being held on an electronic platform. This was despite our Constitution (or Articles of Association) excluding electronic meetings. OSCR allowed emergency arrangements for 2020 but not ongoing. We have discovered many advantages in electronic meetings while managing the Museum and Society since March 2020, allowing us to "Work From Home".

In the context of the 2021 AGM, we do not have a safe space in the Museum for a gathering of members so this is not an option. Given that the predominate means of transmission of the virus and its variants is by droplet spread and that the Museum has no external ventilation, we continue to take

a precautionary approach for the safety of staff, volunteers, members and visitors: facemasks, 2m distancing and restricting numbers. One consequence is that the Side Hall is repurposed as the exit of a one-way route through the Museum and enlarged shop space, for visitors.

Article 2.1 Definitions – includes definitions of the terms relating to electronic meetings (in red).

Article 6. General meetings – please see the tracked changes but the Board does not consider there are material changes proposed to the holding of meetings, other than permitting the option of an electronic format.

Article 6.1.2 The maximum time permitted between AGMs remains 1 year and 3 months. AGM 2020 was delayed from the usual April to July and again postponed for 2021, to September, because of the various and many knock-on effects of Covid on management of the Museum and The Moray Society.

Article 6.4 outlines the proposed permitted arrangements for electronic EGMs and AGMs. In future, we will have the options of a return to meeting in person in one place or continuing with electronic meetings or a combination. As most of us become more confident with electronic communications we may even increase attendance by those who cannot attend and vote in person, but proxy votes remain an option – although we are advised, not postal votes.

Article 12.6 Minutes – attendance of those present at a meeting whether in person or electronically will be recorded.

Agenda 9.2 Changes to categories of Membership

Background to the proposed changes – please see notes for Agenda item 10 Membership Report. If Agenda item 9.2 is passed then the revised membership categories will form the basis for the setting of subscriptions in Agenda item 10.

Article 5. Membership

Article 5.1.2 (f) Student membership – it is proposed that this is deleted. There are currently no members in this category.

Article 5.6.2 By the introduction of concessionary rates it is hoped to attract to Ordinary membership, younger adults in the age range 18 – 25. The actual rates are agreed annually by the members at the AGM, and the subscription amounts are not specified in the Constitution.

Janet Trythall, for The Moray Society Board

21/8/2021

Notes for AGM 2021 Agenda number 10

Membership Report

Because of the restrictions of the last 18 months or so, changes in membership have been relatively few with little opportunity to recruit new members through visitors to the museum or attendees at our lectures. Unfortunately, during that time we have also lost several long-standing members who have passed away.

The current membership stands at a total of 254 with a breakdown as follows:

Ordinary memberships: 138

Family memberships: 64

Life memberships: 52

Following research and work done by Rachael Forbes, our recent Learning Officer, it was suggested by her that we change the categories of membership in order to try to attract younger members to the Society. The proposal will add a new category of Junior Member and remove the Student Member category.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the new categories will be as below:

Ordinary Members: who shall be aged 18 or over and pay an annual subscription due and shall have one vote.

Family Members: who shall be two or more persons residing at the same address and shall be obliged to pay a subscription at a rate of one and a half times that of one Ordinary Member. Each such person aged 18 or over shall have the same voting rights as an Ordinary Member and references to Ordinary Members within these Articles shall refer equally to each person aged 18 of a Family Membership.

Junior members: who shall be aged under 18 and pay any annual membership subscription due. Junior members are neither eligible to stand for election to the Board nor to vote at any Members' meeting (although they may attend any Members' meeting in a non-voting capacity).

Corporate Members: any organisation(s) which pays any annual subscription due, each of which will have one vote exercised by its Authorised Representative or Named Depute appointed in terms of Article 5.2. An Authorised Representative, whom failing Named Depute, shall have the same voting rights as an Ordinary Member and references to Ordinary Members within these Articles shall refer equally to an Authorised Representative, whom failing Named Depute, unless otherwise provided for.

Life Members: who shall be 18 or over and pay a Life Membership subscription and have the same voting rights as an Ordinary Member and references to Ordinary Members within these Articles shall refer equally to a Life member.

It is proposed that subscriptions change as below:

Subscription rates:

Ordinary Member (18 to 25 Years old): Free

Ordinary Member over 25 years of age: £25 (Paid by standing order)

Ordinary member over 25 years of age: £30 (if not paid by standing order)

Family member: £37.50 (paid by standing order)

Family member: £45 (if not paid by standing order)

Junior member (under 18): Free

Corporate Member: £500 minimum contribution.

Life Member: £500 – SINGLE PAYMENT

Given the difficult conditions we are working under at the moment, I would again urge all members to think of any friend / friends who might be interested in joining the Moray Society and helping to preserve the heritage of Moray. Application forms can be found on the Elgin Museum website. Now, more than ever, we need to help to preserve the fine collection of artefacts held in the Museum and ensure they are available for future generations to enjoy.

Bill Dalgarno

Membership Secretary

August 2021

President's Report 2022

First, my apologies for absence. We must be in Edinburgh on 1st December and will be driving home that evening.

We have gradually been getting the Museum opened and back in business once again. In addition, a big effort was made to cover the October "tattie" holidays and thanks are due to all those who volunteered. The one-way system works well, with a little flexibility. Having a bigger and brighter space for the shop is also a gain. Visitors included one or two groups by arrangement. But it was interesting to welcome people from afar. This included one Norwegian who was in Moray to run a whisky marathon!

With the booster jabs now in full swing one does hope that next year we will open sooner and more often. But I understand Covid is still around. However, I had comments from members that we were moving too cautiously. I am pleased that, with professional advice, we are now able to move forwards while maintaining precautions appropriate to our building, for the safety of all users.

Please, do consider joining the Moray Society Board. We do need more Directors to advise and assist us. As ever, please encourage others to support the Museum through their membership of the Moray Society.

The Board and all members and friends of the Moray Society were greatly saddened by Her Majesty the Queen's death. We have published a message of condolence to Her family. We continued the Jubilee display as a mark of our respect and esteem.

I became your Honorary President some years ago. I recall it was a three-year appointment! Lord-Lieutenants are required to retire at aged 75 and I am now well past that. So, the time has come for me to retire from the position and the Board. I had indicated this wish pre-Covid in January 2020 when I became 75, however I felt that the Covid situation was not the correct time to depart and so stayed on. If anything, I am likely to have more time to volunteer and help in the Museum.

I wish you all well for the future. I still have a wish to see us use No 3 High Street more productively and look forward to the day when our buildings project can deliver the much-needed refurbishments, including a lift for improved access and opportunities for deriving some income towards our sustainability.

In conclusion I do wish to thank, once again, the stalwart team who have kept the Museum open and have ensured that all is maintained and looked after. We are most grateful.

Grenville Johnston

Vice-president's Report 2022

It's been another busy year at Elgin Museum, but, as ever, with ups & downs! It was great to welcome a raft of enthusiastic new volunteers this season who, alongside our existing volunteers, did a sterling job throughout the summer welcoming and engaging with visitors. Thank you to all of the volunteers who "worked" in the Museum this season, feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive with the knowledge & friendliness of our volunteers ranking high amongst the praise. Although we are now closed for the winter, do remember that you can continue to visit the Museum "from home" via our website, social media and YouTube channel.

Some of the challenges we faced this year I've no doubt were faced by many of you too – rising costs for utilities and for materials / supplies have had a big impact in the second of the year and is a problem we anticipate will continue to worsen in the coming months. Areas for investigation are exploring ways of reducing expenditure, but also exploring renewable energy options – something of a challenge for an A-listed building in a conservation area!

Our buildings project trundles slowly on, but we hope to make more progress with this in 2023 having now gone through our initial Pre-application enquiry with Moray Council's Planning Service. We'll continue to work closely with HES and Moray Council as we try to develop the Museum sustainably.

One area of success has been project funding, with grants received from Museums Galleries Scotland for a Sessional Outreach Project and for a Funding Development Officer. This latter post will be essential in helping us develop a stronger long-term financial strategy, a critical area for improvement for us. Dr Alison Wright has been leading the Sessional Outreach Project and has already organised numerous successful outreach events & activities across a wide age range. More activities are planned, so do keep an eye on our website, social media channels, and our email updates.

Bill Dalgarno has continued to lead his team of volunteers in the ongoing inventory of the Museum's collections – essential work, and a creating strong platform for us to build from. I would also take this opportunity to offer a huge vote of thanks to Bill for his many dedicated years of service as Museum Convenor. Bill is stepping down from the role but will continue to support the Museum as a Volunteer and as a Trustee.

We also say goodbye this year to our long-standing President, Grenville Johnston, who is stepping down from the role and from the Board. We offer him our sincere gratitude for his long service, commitment and dedication to Elgin Museum and The Moray Society. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing Grenville (and Marylyn!) a long and happy retirement, with lots more time for travelling!

As ever, I offer a heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported Elgin Museum in the last year, whether by volunteering, through Moray Society membership, as a visitor – or all of the above. A slight plug to conclude: if you are interested in becoming a Museum Volunteer, or a Moray Society Trustee, please do get in touch – we're always happy to welcome new faces to the team! We look forward to the seeing you all during the 2023 season!

Claire Herbert, Vice-President November 2022

Notes for the AGM of The Moray Society, 1st December 2022

Agenda number 8: Board membership and election of Trustees:

The Moray Society's Constitution is available on our website. In summary, we are allowed up to eight Trustees elected by Ordinary members, up to three co-opted by the Board, plus the Convenor of the Museum Management Committee, making a total of twelve. The existing Trustees have expressed their willingness to stand for re-election.

All Trustees retire annually at the AGM but can be re-elected without restriction as to the number of times.

The Board recommends the election of the following as Trustees, all duly proposed and seconded by a Moray Society member:

| Nominee | Current Office Bearer/Museum position/Suitability | Proposer | Secunder |
|------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nick Brown | Member, Architect based in Cullen. | Ritchie Mabon | Bill Dalgarno |
| Bill Dalgarno | Volunteer, Membership Secretary, Newsletter, retired retail manager | Alison Wright | Ritchie Mabon |
| Claire Herbert | Vice President, Volunteer, website, Social media, Archaeologist with Aberdeenshire Council | Fiona Bing | John Trythall |
| Stuart Huyton | Volunteer, IT, Director & Founder of Gaia Earth Technologies Ltd, Elgin BID Board member, Trustee of Grant Lodge Trust | Dave Longstaff | Sara Marsh |
| Graham Robertson | Treasurer, Volunteer, retired chartered accountant | Dave Longstaff | Claire Herbert |
| Donna Skelly | Member, Solicitor with Grigor & Young specialising in Rural Land Law. Sec & Treasurer of Banff & Moray Valuers Association | Bill Dalgarno | Janet Trythall |
| Janet Trythall | Volunteer, accreditation, archaeology, member of Geology Group, retired anaesthetist | Mary Byatt | Jenny Main |
| Alison Wright | Volunteer, Convenor of Geology Group, Trustee of Friends of Falconer Museum | Mabel Rennie | Claire Herbert |



**The Moray Society
Form of Proxy Voting AGM 2022**

I,
Of,
being an *Ordinary Member of the Society; or *one, aged 18 years or over, of a
Family Membership hereby appoint the chairman of the Annual General Meeting,
or (insert alternative name) *,
of,
as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the
Society to be held on 1/12/2022 and at any adjournment thereof.

**** to be deleted if not required, or amended if it is required***

This form to be used in favour of/against the resolution(s)

| Agenda Item | | For | Against | Vote Withheld |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-----|---------|---------------|
| 3 | Minutes 2021 AGM | | | |
| 6 | Financial Report 2021 | | | |
| 7 | Independent Financial Examiner | | | |
| 8 | Board Membership | | | |
| | Bill Dalgarno | | | |
| | Nick Brown | | | |
| | Claire Herbert | | | |
| | Stuart Huyton | | | |
| | Graham Robertson | | | |
| | Donna Skelly | | | |
| | Janet Trythall | | | |
| | Alison Wright | | | |

Signature of member appointing proxy (insert name or signature):

.....

Dated: / / 2022



THE MORAY
SOCIETY

ELGIN
MUSEUM

www.elginmuseum.org.uk