

Museum Management Working Group
10th March 2021
Museum Society Chairman's Report

It is twelve months since the last Meeting during which time the Museum has been closed. The Society has learnt to operate, like many other organisations, by Zoom meetings. The Development consultations have been ongoing and we have received the final reports from both Fourth Street (Feasibility Study & Options Appraisal) and Julia Holberry Associates (Audience Development). Keith Eden, the Chairman of the Development Committee will report on the present position at the meeting.

As a result of the covid restrictions on physical meetings the Board arranged for the Annual General Meeting to be conducted by the officers of the Society on Zoom on the 27th November 2020. The reports and a voting form were distributed to members and the officers effected the results of the votes. The officers, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, were all re-elected and Paul Salvidge was re-elected as a Director. Tony Watson was appointed to the Saffron Walden Museum Society management committee as Hon. Solicitor in April 1971, and in addition to this role had been Vice-Chairman for a number of years and the first Chairman of the new Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd since 2008. The Board have agreed the Chairman's request that a new chairman should be found for appointment later this year. At the January Board meeting it was agreed to appoint two vice-chairmen to assist in the preparation of the appointment of a new Chairman. Paul Salvidge and Keith Eden were duly appointed. The Board were also pleased to confirm the appointment of a new membership Secretary, Catherine Peacock. It was also agreed that the Board should look to appoint two new Directors to cover future retirements of Directors.

During the last twelve months we have agreed to alterations to the Management Agreement to assist the Council in its appointments to this body. The Society have increased its numbers to five to balance the Councillors appointed by the Council. The revisions need to be approved by the meeting. The alterations were agreed by the Board at the January meeting.

The monthly talks programme had to be cancelled in March 2020. As a benefit of the Board and Committee meetings being conducted on Zoom it was agreed to provide talks by this method. It has proved successful and three talks have already been held. Many thanks to Paul Salvidge for finding speakers and to Richard Priestley in hosting the meetings.

Tony Watson