

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of Buxton International Festival (FoBIF) CIO
held at 10.30am on 8 March 2024 at the Lee Wood Hotel Buxton
and by Zoom**

Some 70 Friends attended the meeting in person with several others attending by Zoom.

Pete Spriggs, Chair, opened the meeting at 10.30am by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending either in person or by Zoom.

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted for the 37 persons who had indicated that they were unable to attend the meeting.

2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 February 2023

The minutes were unanimously approved, subject to the correction of the minuted date for the 2024 AGM. **Proposed: Chris Baker. Seconded: Tony Crook.**

3) Audited Financial Statements, including the Trustees' Annual Report for Year ended 31 October 2023

The report had been made available on the website. Pete Spriggs gave a brief commentary on the annual report, highlighting some critical points. These included:

- Some 29,000 tickets sold, 150 events, 3 unique in-house productions, 50 speakers, and 350 musicians and singers employed.
- 2146 Friends, the geographical split of whom was 1/3 High Peak, 1/3 regional and 1/3 national.
- The Festival had been repeatedly critically acclaimed for its productions.
- Ongoing excellent communication between the Friends, Buxton Festival Foundation and the Festival itself.
- A big thank you also to all the Festival office team for all their background support of the Friends.
- Specific mention was made of the value of legacies and in particular the Patricia Austin legacy and how this had been applied, partly in recognition of the legacy with the balance being paid to the Festival Foundation in accordance with our agreement with them in relation to such.
- A big thank you to Friends for their continued loyalty with a request that all tell their networks about Buxton International Festival.

No questions were raised on the detail of the Annual Report.

Tony Parsons, as Treasurer, then introduced and summarized the published accounts drawn to 31 October 2023. Of particular note was the increase in income compared with the previous year. This reflected the two generous legacies which had been

received and increased income tax refunds which had arisen as a result of a change in HMRC procedures and would be unlikely to be repeated.

Total expenditure was slightly down from the previous year (£11871 cf. £12800). Payments by way of support to the Festival totaled £215,000 which had been budgeted for. In addition to this the sum of £69,281 had been given to the Foundation for their endowment fund, representing the balance of legacies received. It was intended that annual consideration continue to be given as to whether there were other sums available to be passed across to the Foundation at the end of each financial year. Subject to this, the reserves being carried forward of £91,365 would be retained in line with our reserves policy and to be available to further assist the Festival in the current year if required.

No questions were raised on the detail of the accounts.

The Trustees' Annual Report and the Audited Accounts (as attached) were duly noted.

4) Proposal to appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity's Auditors for 2023-2024

It was unanimously agreed that we should appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity's auditors for 2023-2024. **Proposer: Jane Davies. Seconded: Roddie MacLean.**

It was agreed that the minutes should record a note of thanks to Tony Parsons for all his work as treasurer.

4) Election of Committee members (trustees)

Pete Spriggs confirmed that John Gaunt, Tony Parsons and Rees Webster had all retired by rotation and were offering themselves for re-election. Mandy Travis was also put forward to be elected as an additional trustee. They were duly elected on a proposal from Wyn Davies, seconded by Jo Holdway.

Pete acknowledged the support received from all trustees and also the unspoken heroes on the Events Catering Committee.

6) Buxton Festival Foundation update

Jane Davies as chairman of the Foundation gave an update as to the Foundation and its current finances indicating the positive position it found itself in. A total of £398,000 was now held in an Income and Growth Fund.

The Foundation was looking to continue to build its endowment in part through the promotion of legacy giving. Following discussions with the Friends it had been agreed that those who had declared their intention to leave a legacy to the Foundation would receive the same priority booking benefits as if they were a member of the Directors Circle.

The Foundation now had sufficient funds that it felt able to continue to commit to an annual grant to the Festival in the sum of £25,000. The grant for the forthcoming year will support the orchestra of Opera North appearing for Ernani.

7) Festival 2024 update

Michael Williams as CEO of the Festival and Vicky Dawson then gave an update of plans for the 2024 Festival.

8) The provisional date for the next AGM was set for Friday 7 March 2025.

9) Any other business

Pete Spriggs reminded the meeting of two upcoming Friends events, namely Music at Moorcroft on Tuesday 16 April 12.00 – 15.00 and a Jazz Summer Starter Evening at Tissington Hall on Thursday 20 June 18.30 – 20.30

There was no other business raised and, as chair, Pete Spriggs closed the formal part of the meeting thanking all for their attendance and participation.

There followed a well-attended recital by the Trilogy Ensemble and for those who wanted to stay, lunch at the Lee Wood Hotel.