

SCOTTISH WORKING PEOPLE'S HISTORY TRUST

Scottish Charity No. SC020357

Minutes of the 75th meeting of the Trust held on Tuesday 8th June 2021, via internet on Zoom during the Covid 19 pandemic crisis.

Present: Sian Reynolds (Chair), Dorothy Kidd (DK, Secretary), Janet McBain (JMcB, Treasurer), Michael Allan (MA), Bernard Beagan (BB), Elizabeth Bryan (EB), Joyce Connon (JC), Cathlin Macaulay (CM), Ian McGowan (IM), Alan Reid (AR).

- 1. Chairperson's remarks:** SR welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the committee for their help over the past year.
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from: Hugh Hagan.
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** Agreed.
- 4. Matters arising:** DK reported that she had emailed Hilary Young but had not so far heard back from her. It was agreed to assume she had resigned and not to continue to send her the minutes.

SR suggested that we let Richard Wilson know that the Friends had been dissolved and ask him if he is willing to become a patron of the Trust. **Action: DK**

- 5. Secretary's report:** DK reported that all former Friends of the Trust had been contacted, told of its dissolution and invited to become supporters of the Trust instead. JMcB confirmed that a number of them have done this and thanked them for their continued support. DK still needs to claim Gift Aid on the donations received for 2020 – 2021 and then to inform OSCR of the dissolution of the Friends.

Action: DK

SR asked if it is still realistic for the Trust to continue to produce an annual Newsletter. EB confirmed that she is happy to continue to produce the Newsletter and asked for content to be sent to her, with a view to publishing the next issue in the late summer or early autumn, in time to announce the autumn conference. AR offered to provide information on the progress of the Peeblesshire Textile Workers book and it was agreed that the newsletter will also include an item on our supporters and an appeal to University departments.

Action: EB/AR and all

- 6. Treasurer's report:** JMcB had submitted a report in writing in advance of the meeting. She noted that we had received no book royalties in the past year and that our only income was from the donations and Gift Aid from the Friends. The Trust funds currently amount to £13,335.64 of which about £7000 will be spent on the digital access project with SCRAN. In response to a question from AR in relation to the cost of insurance JMcB confirmed that the Trust is insured for the minimum it can be to enable it to continue to employ a research worker

and any volunteers.

Thanks were recorded to Jennifer Donnelly CA for auditing the Trust's accounts at no cost and the accounts were approved.

7. Publications projects: AR provided an update on recent communications from Mark Mulhern of the EERC on the Peeblesshire Textile Workers book. Some progress has been made over the past few months, despite the Covid crisis. This includes work on a preface, based around interviews with a number of individuals who knew Ian MacDougall well. Caroline Milligan will be conducting the interviews with: Hamish Fraser, Ian Wood, Hugh Mackay and Jack Kellett.

The EERC's publications partner, NMSE Publishing, had reported that they were unlikely to be able to produce anything before 2023. It was anticipated that a production schedule would be produced shortly, printers engaged in the next few months and NMSE would be able to handle distribution.

SR noted that it would be helpful if information on progress were available in time for our 2022 spring lecture.

Note: Shortly after the Trust meeting, on 16th June, a positive update was received from Mark Mulhern of the EERC - that he had met with NMSE Publishing who were going out of their way to help with production of the *Flashbacks* series. Together, EERC and NMSE had agreed to continue with book production as they normally would. The typescript will be submitted when ready for production. If NMSE Publishing capacity at the time allows, the book will be produced entirely in-house. If the previously discussed backlog means that this will not be possible, EERC will adopt the mitigation previously discussed. In short, there should be no/very little delay in production of the book. He was about to meet with Caroline Milligan to draw-up a schedule for the interviews to take place. And then set-out the production schedule.

8. Anniversary conference 2021 (joint initiative with the Scottish Labour History Society and National Library of Scotland): EB reported on the various meetings that had taken place with colleagues in SLHS and NLS. The conference will be in the form of an online event taking place over three sessions during the day on 30 November 2021. At the request of Ian MacDougall's family a separate face to face event will be held on 7 April 2022 (in the Boardroom, NLS), the first of the annual memorial lectures to celebrate Ian's work, his contribution to the formation of both SLHS and the SWPHT will be marked at the joint conference.

The draft timetable for the day is:

11.00 Stewart MacLennan, SLHS; Prof Hamish Fraser, SWPHT and Ian Wood taking part in a Q&A session.

14.00 NLS staff showcase their collections relating to the two societies and acquired in part

thanks to the work of Ian MacDougall. This session could also include reference to his collections held at the School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh University and possibly an edited version of the interview conducted by the Trust with Ian in 2019.

17.00 Dr Ewan Gibbs, Caroline Milligan and Dr Valerie Wright taking part in a Q&A session on the practice of oral history.

EB went on to explain that NLS would handle the promotion of the event. AR made the suggestion that the Scottish Local History Forum (another organisation Ian was involved with) could also be asked to advertise the autumn conference.

A brief discussion followed about the practicality of preparing an HLF application to fund a presentation including films from the Moving Image Archive and extracts from Ian's interview. It was agreed that it would be a better use of resources to save an application to HLF for a higher priority project, after we have helped produce the online conference.

9. Digital access project/Website: MA reported that he is about to start Tweeting on behalf of the Trust and would like a profile picture for his Tweets. He also asked all Trustees to send him any relevant information and especially images. This was also another way of publicising the conference.

Action: All

DK reported that research worker Veronica Hartwich was progressing work on writing introductions and metadata for each occupational group interviewed by the Trust. Sample interviews from two people from each group will form part of the Trust's contribution to SCRAN, along with an edited version of our interview with Ian MacDougall.

10. Policy documents development: The sub-committee appointed to finalise the Trust policies on Data Protection, Volunteers and Safeguarding (EB/HH/MA/DK) had not yet been able to meet but would aim to do so as soon as possible.

SR thanked EB for all the work she had already put into preparing the policies.

11. Trust Office bearers: SR confirmed again that she wished to step down as Chair of the Trust but very kindly agreed to remain a Trustee. No other nominations had been received for Chair but Elizabeth Bryan had very kindly agreed to the proposal to be nominated by EB, JMcb and DK. She was elected unanimously and all other Trustees agreed to remain on the committee.

12. Date and place of next meeting: The next meeting of the Trust will be held on Tuesday

1 January 2022 at a 'real' venue to be agreed.

Action: DK to ask Ian MacGowan and Hugh Hagan if NLS or NRS room is available nearer the time.

D Kidd, 1 July 2021