

Summary of minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the John Rae Society  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at the Pomona Inn, Finstown  
Starting at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Andrew Appleby – President  
Anna Elmy – Hon. Secretary  
Fiona Lettice – Hon. Treasurer

Rachel Boak  
Heather Bond  
Davina Brown  
Denise Bullen  
Hilda Firth  
Sandy Firth  
Mark Newton  
Davie Reid  
Bill Spence  
John Welburn

The Minutes from the 2015 AGM were taken as read, approved and signed.

**President Andrew Appleby's Report 2015-2016:** published separately on website.

**Treasurer Fiona Lettice's Report:** the amount of £7,900 has been paid out as ten percent of the purchase price of the Hall of Clestrain. It was agreed that the auditors A.J.B. Scholes Limited should be retained.

**Membership Secretary Denise Bullen's Report:** there are nine new members since the last report, while eight have resigned membership. It was suggested that the membership rates are raised from April 2017 to £15.00 per annum for single annual membership and £20.00 per annum for joint annual membership, with single life membership at £150.00 and joint life membership at £200.00.

**Election of new Trustees:** two new Trustees were elected to the Board, Bill Spence and John Welburn.

**Committee Reports:** now that the Hall of Clestrain has been purchased it is suggested that a dedicated committee should be set up to plan the next steps with its first meeting in November.

The JRS needs to raise its profile through events and collaborations with various festivals and anniversaries in 2017. A visit in spring 2017 by Professor Russell Potter of Rhode Island College and Jane Hamilton from Canada is proposed around which a series of events could be programmed. Professor Potter is the author of *Finding Franklin: The Untold Story of a 165-Year Search* (2016) and Jane Hamilton will be launching her novel, *Finding John Rae*.

There are several Christmas charity fairs coming up and the Standing Stones Hotel craft fair, at which the JRS was present in 2015. The Events Committee will make arrangements for the Society to have a stall at one or more of these events.

The appointment of an Administrative Secretary was discussed and whether the post could incorporate the Membership Secretary's duties as well.

The next AGM will be in October 2017.

President: **Andrew J Appleby**    Chairman: **Norman Shearer**    Honorary Secretary: **Anna Elmy**  
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