



BOOKMARK

Blairgowrie, Rattray and The Glens Book Festival

AGM

Saturday 1 February 2020, 2.00 pm at St Catharine's Community Centre, Blairgowrie

Present: Jacqui Rutherford(JR), Jean Squires(JS), Les Squires, Rhona Christie(RC), Kathleen Walker(KW), June Hastings, Kay Thomson(KT), Kay Seal, Gail Wylie(GW), Anne Glass,(AG) Linda Clark(LC), Jan Farquhar(JF), Jacqueline Edwards, Margaret Davies, Christine Findlay, Catriona Innes, Aileen Davidson, Christine Fraser,(CFr) Ian Fraser, Liz Mason,(LM) Audrey Walker, Dot Cruickshank, Ian Cruickshank, E Dow, Jeannie Webster, Loran Stratham, Trish Harris, Caroline Shiers, Vivien Phillips, Bill Munro, D Macfarlane(DM), D Calder, Violet Tosh, Sir William Macpherson, Lady Hilary Burnham, Christine Thom, Caroline Crawford.

Apologies: Jessie Shaw, Alasdair Shaw, Rosemary Gierthy, Pete Wishart, Bronwen Godley, Fiona Barron, Judith Gain, Sophie Younger, Veronica Kinahan, Anthony Kinahan, Hugh Alexander, Marion Duffy, Liz Church, Jen Geddes

Agenda:

1. Welcome. Apologies. Register
2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM.
 - Matters arising
 - Approved by and Seconded by
3. Summary of Monitoring and Evaluation Report BOOKMARK 2019
4. Presentation of Annual Accounts April 2018 to March 2019 for approval
5. Approval of Independent Examiner
6. Interim Summary of Financial Situation April to December 2019
7. Draft Plan for BOOKMARK 2020
8. Election of Office Bearers – Nominations are:
 - Chair – Gail Wylie
 - Treasurer – Rhona Christie
 - Secretary – Kathleen Walker
 - Members' Secretary – Rhona Christie
9. Election of Trustees – Nominations are:
 - Gail Wylie
 - Kathleen Walker
 - Rhona Christie
 - Liz Mason
 - Caroline Shiers

10. AOCB

1 Welcome, Apologies, Register

GW welcomed everyone to the AGM of BOOKMARK (BM) 2019, noted the apologies and reminded all those attending to sign the register.

2 Approval of Minutes of last AGM. Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last AGM were circulated among the members prior to the meeting. As there were no matters arising, the Minutes were approved by CF and seconded by LM. GW stated that all issues raised in last year's Minutes were dealt with during the year as the Committee take those comments very seriously. The Committee is always looking to improve on its commitment to BOOKMARK.

3 Summary of Monitoring and Evaluation Report BOOKMARK 2018

Last year's Festival is the most successful so far in terms of numbers and, also in terms of feed-back we received from the M&E cards. The cards inform us of where people come from, where people hear about BM and, most importantly, what the audience thinks of BM. Last year, there were no bad reviews, thankfully, but what was interesting is that 50% of the audience were local and 50% were people who travelled quite a distance and a number of them stayed the weekend or at least one night, which is very good for Blairgowrie as well as BM. The Weekend Pass was a great success this year – over 70 were sold and that meant we had a core audience of 60-70 at each event. There was not a single event that had less than 100 people attending. Ali Smith and Louis de Bernières had even greater audiences. This was very gratifying for all the Committee to see that audiences have grown; BOOKMARK's reputation has grown, and good quality writers wish to come to Blairgowrie to BM. BM has identified other areas which need to be addressed, eg, getting the word out to Dundee following comments made at BOOKMARK 2019. GW will make contact with the Courier to discuss press coverage in their area. GW reported that BOOKMARK 2020 Programme was almost complete but the names, for now, will remain under wraps.

GW concluded by thanking everyone concerned, sponsors, businesses and especially the audiences because one of the most effective way of spreading publicity, as far as the feed-back forms were concerned, was word of mouth – thanks to YOU for telling your friends.

4 Presentation of Annual Accounts April 2018 to March 2019

RC reported the Annual Accounts had been forwarded to members prior to the meeting and no comments have been received. JR approved the accounts and seconded by KT.

5 Approval of Independent Examiner

Bronwen Godley very kindly took on the role last year as Independent Examiner and has very kindly agreed to continue this year. RC asked that this appointment be approved again – approved by GW and seconded by DM.

6 Interim Summary of Financial Situation April to December 2018

RC highlighted some of the items contained in the accounts - BM was in a better position financially in March 2019 than the same period in 2018. As there are sufficient funds in the bank as at January 2020 the next BOOKMARK Festival can go ahead. RC reported that this was mainly due to an increase in membership which is really gratifying, and BM was able to secure more grants and sponsorship donations. Thanks to KT for undertaking to fill in a huge number of application forms. Ticket sales also helped to boost income. Expenditure was also up because BM is organising more Meet the Author events.

7 Draft Plan for BOOKMARK 2020

GW also thanked KT for all the hard work raising funds for BM and as a result, BM2020 is well underway. BOOKMARK 2020 programme is as follows

March 14. Book Launch for returning author and consummate performer – Olga Wojtas - *Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Vampire Menace* .

June 14. Is a new departure for BM – Literary Lunch with Joshua Rozenberg QC from Radio 4's *Law in Action*. Joshua, a hugely influential legal journalist and commentator will be discussing his new book *Enemies of the People? How Judges Shape Society*. Joshua will be Chaired by Mungo Bovey QC, Keeper of the Library of the Faculty of Advocates. The venue for this auspicious occasion will be Ballathie House Hotel. Tickets - at £40 will include a two-course lunch and a glass of wine – will be limited and will be on sale shortly. BM would like to thank the Faculty of Advocates for sponsoring this event.

July 25: BOOKMARK 2020 Launch – Colin Ballantyne who will be discussing his book *Scotland's Mountain Landscapes* . The Box Office for BOOKMARK 2020 will be open and Early Bird tickets on sale.

September tbc: GW hopes there might be another event and that it is still in the planning process.

September tbc: AiS event.

October 2,3,4: Main Festival – Blairgowrie Community Campus. GW reported there would be 3 well-known novelists, travel and nature writing, photography, and a really well-known actor, if he doesn't get a better offer, plus a good mixture of genre, personalities, good chairs.

November: it is hoped there will be a further event to close BOOKMARK 2020. For all BOOKMARK information, visit the website www.bookmarkblair.com

8 Election of Executive Committee

JS read out the nominations for the Executive Committee-

Chair -	Gail Wylie – Proposed RC. Seconded KT
Treasurer -	Rhona Christie – Proposed LC. Seconded JR
Secretary -	Kathleen Walker – Proposed RC. Seconded AG
Membership Secretary -	Rhona Christie – Proposed JR. Seconded GW

9 Election of Trustees

JS suggested appointing the Trustees as a block rather than individually and read out the nominees, Gail Wylie, Kathleen Walker, Rhona Christie, Caroline Shiers and Liz Mason. Proposed CFr. Seconded JF.

10 AOCB

There being no further competent business GW closed the meeting before introducing BOOKMARK's guests for the afternoon, Sandra Ireland and Angie Crawford. She reminded the audience to purchase raffle tickets and that afternoon tea would follow the talk.