

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held in the Sgubor and on Zoom at 9.30 on Saturday, June 24th. 15 members were present. All were welcomed by the Chairman Huw Jones and the minutes of the 23 July 2022 Annual Meeting were accepted as correct. The Chairman specifically referred to Item 8 (Election of Trustees) stating that the 2022 Annual Meeting had approved new Articles so as to increase the number of Trustees to a maximum of 12. The change had not been registered at Companies House within the required two weeks, so the Chairman wished to re-submit the original proposal to this year's Annual Meeting. The proposal to increase the number to 12 was approved unanimously.

The Chairman presented his report for 2022:

‘This was the first full year of activity after the partial recovery of 2021, following Covid restrictions.

The Education department managed to continue to provide additional methods of learning Welsh online, as well as a full range of residential courses on site. The ability to offer a wide choice of learning opportunities is key if we want to maximize the number of those who learn the language. The courses continued to attract favourable feedback and praise from learners.

It was an extremely busy year in terms of our commercial operations, which are so essential in order to maintain the site and its activities. Many weddings were postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid and rearranging dates meant that more than the usual number were welcomed in 2022. This meant considerable pressure on the shoulders of our staff at a time when the hospitality industry in general was facing major staffing problems. A heroic effort was made to maintain every element of the service to the highest standard.

Awareness of the Nant as a magical place to visit has continued to increase, making Caffi Meinir a busy attraction on fine days. A steady number of visitors each week enjoy the presentations on the heritage and history of the Nant which can be seen in the Chapel, the Period House and the Old Surgery.

A considerable investment was made once again in the resources on site, refurbishing two of the accommodation units to a significantly higher standard. We will be drawing up an extensive refurbishment programme to ensure the maintenance and upgrading of all units over a period of several years.

The accounts for the year show a turnover of £1,529,497 - a reduction of 7.2% on the 2021 figure, where a big difference was made by the subsidies which were made available during the pandemic. Nevertheless, 2022 has generated a net surplus of £91,088 (6% of turnover) which has supported the investment in resources.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Mair Saunders and all the staff for this commendable financial outcome.

During the year Garfield Lloyd Lewis joined the Board as Vice-Chair and Rhiannon Ceiri and Martyn Croydon joined as new members as we said goodbye to Treasurer Clive Wolfendale and Myrddin ap Dafydd. I am very grateful to all the Board members for their support and contributions throughout the year.

The location, history and facilities of Nant Gwrtheyrn are an invaluable resource for the nation. The Board of Trustees wants to ensure that the possibilities the Nant offers for Learning, Inspiration and Enjoyment are fully realised. The work of strategic planning to ensure the achievement of this objective for the long term has already started.'

Huw also drew attention to two important pieces of work that are under way, namely the strategy review by Niall Maxwell of Rural Office, which will offer a possible long-term strategy for the whole site (an initial report has been submitted), and also the work being done by external consultant Jane Richardson on elements such as staffing, new operating methods and internal procedures.

The Chairman noted that two members of the Board were retiring this year. Phyllis Ellis had been a member for 32 years and Secretary for over 20 years. The Chairman paid tribute to her for her tremendous contribution and support over the years. The other retiring member was Ifor Gruffydd and the Chairman emphasized too the loss that his departure will represent.

Menna Jones and Gwenda Griffith were coming to the end of their terms, but both were willing to continue to serve and were re-elected for a further period.

Gwyn Jones, Aberaeron was elected as a new member and also Treasurer of the Trust (information about Gwyn had already been circulated).

With the departure of Phyllis Ellis, the Chairman noted that it would be necessary to appoint a new Secretary over the coming months.

With Garffild in the chair, Huw Jones was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Board. With Huw back in the chair, Garffild Lloyd Lewis was unanimously re-elected vice-Chairman.

The meeting agreed to delegate to the Board the responsibility for tendering for the appointment of auditors.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending this important meeting and wanted to remind everyone that Nant had a stand at the National Eisteddfod this year, with an opportunity there to publicise our work and engage in a wider discussion with the public.